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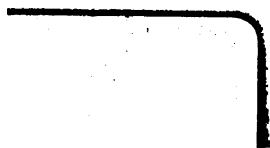
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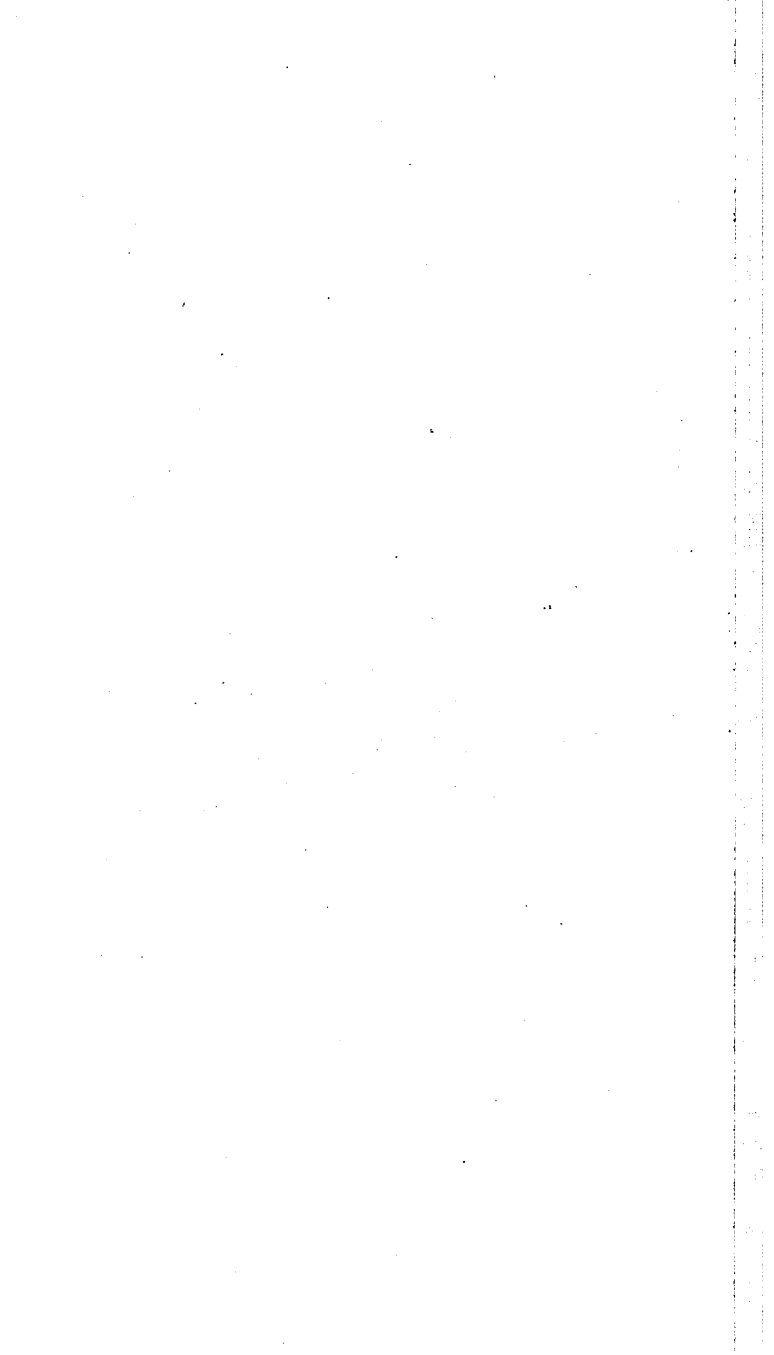
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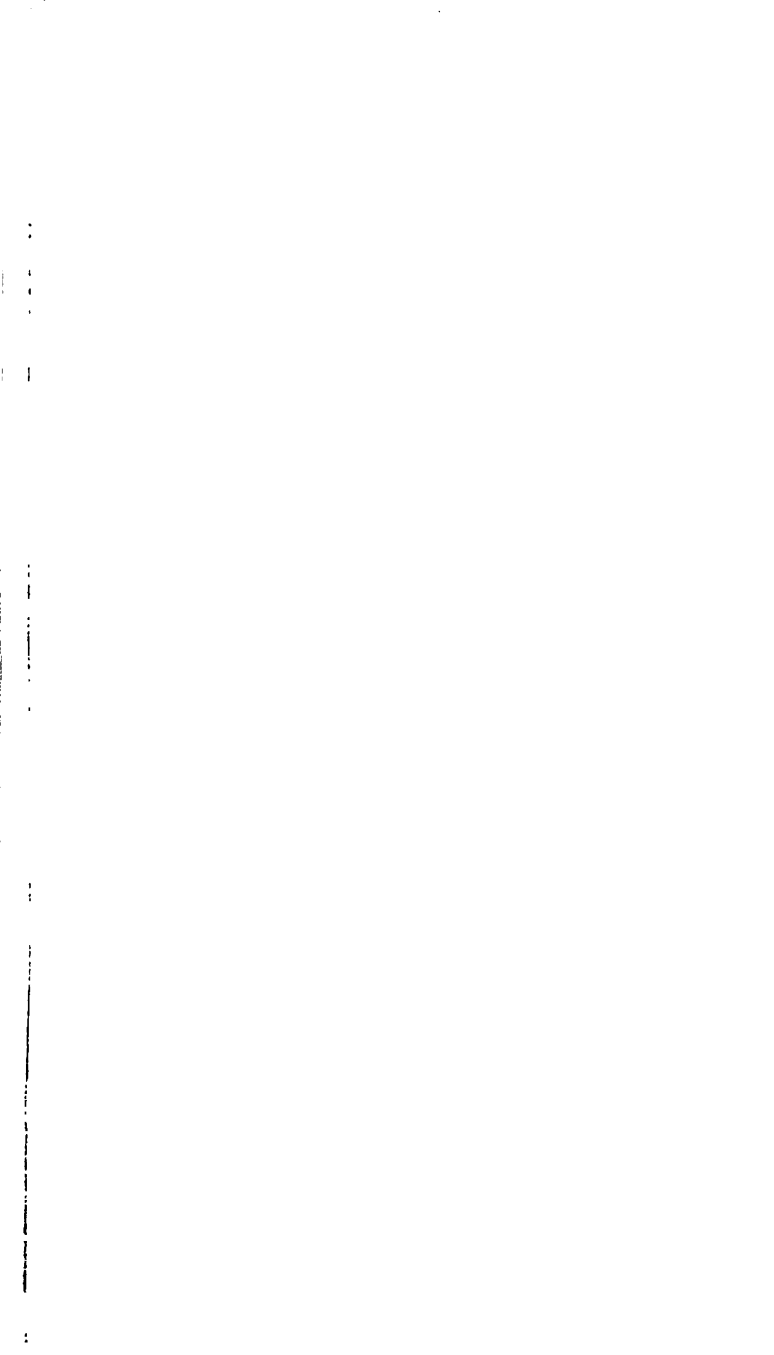
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THE
PARSON, PEN, AND PENCIL:

OR,

REMINISCENCES AND ILLUSTRATIONS
OF AN EXCURSION TO PARIS, TOURS, AND ROUEN,
IN THE SUMMER OF 1847 ;

WITH
A FEW MEMORANDA ON FRENCH FARMING.

BY
G. M. MUSGRAVE, M.A.
VICAR OF BORDEN, KENT.

" All my reports go with the modest truth ;
Not more, nor clipp'd, but so."

SHAKESPEARE.

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THE PARSON, PEN, AND PENCIL.

CHAPTER I.

THE Clock-Gate at Rouen might, by the English people at least, be called Prout's gate ; and, indeed, most of the narrow old picturesque streets, seemed in my regards little else than the solid substantial realities of many a series of admirable water-colour drawings, touched off with reed-pen and camel hair pencil, — vanbrown, madder, terra Sienna, lake, and warm greys,— and rendered delightfully bright by favour of white Cauchoise caps, two feet high, and pendent lengths of many score yards of various coloured broadcloth, exhibited in display of the weaver's and dyer's excellences, from the third to the basement story. But, be it observed that these

brilliant little dots of white, and the gorgeous breadths of Turkey red, or blue, or yellow tissue, have almost entirely disappeared. In the full market of Rouen I could distinguish only one Cauchoise cap, such as I have here delineated; and the newly-dyed cloth is no longer to be seen hanging down from the windows. I believe the town authorities have forbidden the practice. Since pavement and gas, and the *Conseils de Salubrité* have introduced such extensive changes, many of these ancient usages have been dropped.

I was sorry to miss the caps; but they are disappearing rapidly; and in all the country of the Cauchoises I failed to detect any. After



many inquiries in Rouen I succeeded in purchasing *one*, the only specimen left at the shop whither I was directed; and there I was told the sale was limited to old nurses, who still liked the costume; and who, when

entering a family, for the month or year, always

expected the master to make them a present of a handsome cap. These superior articles, being fitted up with lace, frequently cost upwards of two pounds. The one I took home was sold for five shillings and tenpence. They are supported and maintained in all the starched rigidity of their shape by a card-frame thirteen inches high, resembling a huge strawberry-pottle, which fits on to the wearer's head without any tie under the chin; and sticks upright as a chimney-pot or malthouse ventilator. There is nothing approaching to beauty in this costume; but this peculiar feature of the Norman female peasant's dress has been introduced so extensively into every "View in Rouen," as the Exhibition catalogues state, not only as essential to correct portraiture of the groups of natives, but as an ingredient in the picturesque, that I have deemed it worthy of this particular mention; especially, too, since it will, ere long, become one of the "has beens" of by-gone days.

I think the Clock-Gate has been overrated. The gate at Thoun in Switzerland *composes* far more prettily in a picture, and so does that at Berne; but the street in which this *grosse*

horloge is situate will always supply beautiful sketches; and the carving and cutting of the old timbers, which in many instances are as elaborately adorned as quaint taste and sharp tools could render them, constitute almost every other house a subject for close inspection and high finish, such as Prout's pencil has most happily given in colour, and Roberts's burin through copper-plate. I travelled without palette and colours, and therefore made no attempt at out-door sketching. Indeed, we hardly found time to *see* all that was *worth seeing*; still less to stock a portfolio:—but I can imagine an artist expending his prime in an old town like this, and identifying his name as completely with Rouen, as Canaletti's was with Venice.

I am bound to speak in terms of high eulogium on the subject of Rouen's literary reputation.

There is not an art or science which is not cultivated there with eminent success, and which has not introduced some man of powerful genius to the notice of civilised Europe. "A true country of Wisdom!" says Michelet, "That Normandy, which in so many respects has served

as a model to France and England, appears to me to have formed types of association more worthy than any other of being recommended to the attention of future times.

Before I had been twelve hours in the city, I was invited to join a reunion of savans, who were on the point of holding their weekly *conversazione* on subjects of general interest in the pursuit of literature; more especially with reference to the chemical properties of certain earths, and the affinities of materials under fermentation in various soils. To what extent I was enabled to profit by this fraternization remains to be shewn in a future chapter. It was evident that a scholar might live and die in this old town without repining at the dearth of food for the mind. Rouen has its Royal Academy of Sciences, Arts, and *Belles Lettres*; a society for the improvement of commerce and industry; a society of the friends of art; an apothecaries' society; a Philharmonic Society; a free society of emulation; a Horticultural Society; a Committee for the General Study of Antiquities; besides Professorships in Chemistry, Natural Philosophy,

Natural History, Schools of Design, Lectureships of Botany, &c. &c.; two excellent museums, picture galleries, and a valuable public library at the Town Hall. The citizens are proud of their Corneille. They have erected a bronze statue, twelve feet in height, to his memory, on the platform of the stone bridge; the pedestal being of white marble of Carrara, resting on a base of granite. This was done by subscription thirteen years ago, through the spirited exertions of the abovementioned "Society of Emulation." A medal was struck for the occasion, representing on one side the head of Pierre himself, with the inscription:—

"Pierre Corneille, born at Rouen June 6th, 1606; died at Paris on the 1st of October, 1684.

and, on the other side, the statue:—

"Statue of bronze, erected by subscription to Pierre Corneille in his native town, through the exertions of the Society of Emulation in Rouen, in 1834."

My favourite French composer, Boildieu, the author of "Le Nouveau Seigneur du Village," (one of the prettiest operas in the French school of music,) was born here also; as was Jouvenet the painter, in the reign of our Charles the First.

Rode along the Boulevard Beauvoisine to see the splendid horse-market. The Normandy mares are "worth any man's money," as the phrase is. They go through a day's work with less "grub" or grumbling than any quadruped or biped in this "workaday world." Rouen, moreover, was anciently renowned for those steeds with bay, sorrel, or black coats with grey or white spots very thickly interspersed, which established the appellation of Roan,—a corruption of Rouen, horses. This manner of pronouncing and spelling the name of the old city was very common in the 16th century. In Shakspeare's Henry VI. it is thus written throughout.

The avenues, shaded by trees of beautiful foliage, were perfectly delightful to behold in one of the most sultry afternoons of July.

The grass-plot is widely and evenly spread, and serves to explain the origin of the word "Boulevard;" "Boule" signifying a grassy carpet adapted for promenade, as a lawn is; and "vard" being a corruption of "verd," green.

Now the earliest *promenades* of France, were narrow grassy walks like a road of turf, over-

arched, or, at any rate, skirted by trees ; forming what was called, also, “une allée verte ;” the name still retained at Brussels for the road which used to run through a triple row of trees on the banks of the canal, to the extent of half a league beyond the city walls.

On this Boulevard Beauvoisine, which was planted with trees about eighty years since, on the site of the ancient moats of the fortified town, we saw a squad of old women working as sweepers on the road, overlooked by an officer, resembling one of our beadles in undress suit, who carried a book with him, noting down the task-work. I was informed, that since the scarcity of provisions and consequent high prices had begun to prevail, the town council had resorted to this expedient, and awarded fourpence halfpenny per diem to each old girl for her highway labour: the inhabitants paying an extra rate for it. This work, however, when the cost of provision is moderate, is done by old male paupers at sevenpence a day. I enquired how they were disposing of the men and children, while these veteran *mères de famille*

were thus *raising the dust*, and was informed that they were either in the stone yards, or stationed at various localities in the highway, picking and breaking stones; the men receiving tenpence, the children fourpence-halfpenny a-day. Thus a man with a wife and three children, upwards of eight years of age, was earning fourteen shillings a week; which in France might fairly be reckoned as equivalent to sixteen shillings and sixpence English. I imagine, however, that they would not be employed for six days together, but be taken in turn. Even were this rate of pay for the five individuals' labour awarded to them through three days, it would rescue the family from destitution. I perceived at a glance how much more effectively they plied their tools than the old women, calling themselves men, whom we may occasionally see wasting the parish-pay in our cross-roads in England; and whose indolent habits, or indifferent characters, quarter them on the highway rate as on a life annuity, to the grievous wrong of the rated inhabitants.

There was ample evidence at this period of

our visit, July 1847, of the depression felt among the manufacturers. We were ascending the long and steep "fir-tree hill," *Mont des Sapins*, to enjoy the magnificent view of the Val de Darnetal, the Seine, and the City of Rouen, when we fell in with a body of three hundred labourers actively employed in levelling the hill, and repairing the road leading to the spacious cemetery at its summit. These were men who, until the high prices set in, used to work in the manufactories; those cotton mills, spinning-houses, and gown-print establishments, which, from their number, activity, and extensive transactions, have caused Rouen to be designated the Manchester of France. In fact, the commonest name given to all those striped or checked cotton stuffs which abound, in the provinces, among the women of the labouring class, is *Rouenneries*; just as our spun wool-thread took its name of "Worsted," from the circumstance of the best samples of that most useful material having originally been produced at Worsted, in Norfolk. I inspected the bleaching, dying, and printing mills in the valleys of

Deville, Bapeaume, Maromme, Houlme and Malaunay ; completing my survey at Barentin, which is a lovely spot indeed, and made me think that a Cotton Lord of Normandy was no insignificant or unenviable personage. It was in these quarters that I saw my vision of the blood-red cart. It reminded me of those lines of Byron :—

“ A cup upon the board was set,
Which did not seem to hold Sherbet.”

A grim driver, with ominously tinged hands, was slowly conducting a tumbrel which appeared to be filled with gore. It swayed heavily from side to side, the red load dashing in “thick and slab” wave against the boarding of the cart, and telling in silence, a tale of immense slaughter. De Foe’s “Dead Cart,” was hardly more repulsive to behold ; but my charioteer tolled no bell. I saw it advancing ; I was sure to see it at close quarters ; Fa, fe, fi, fo, fum ! With my mind’s *nose* I could scent the coming horror ! By all the powers of a *wool*-gathering brain, it was a cart loaded with damask red cotton thread,

on its way from the dyers to the station house, on the viaduct of Barentin, and thence to the city ! And so the “murder ’s out !”

I was speaking of the cemeteries. There are nine in Rouen : seven for the Roman Catholics, two for the Protestants. The great demand of families to obtain a piece of ground on which to erect a monument on the grave of a relation, had caused a great diminution of ground for interments. The municipal authorities, therefore, took measures to prevent untoward consequences, and, during the mayoralty of Mons. le Marquis de Martainville, about fourteen or fifteen years since, a purchase was effected of ten acres, on the beautiful eminence called Mont des Sapins, a barren and comparatively unprofitable spot ; and this inclosure, being walled round, was henceforth appropriated as a monumental burying-ground. A chapel stands on its highest point, and a large vault was formed under it for the provisional deposit of bodies, which could not be interred, under monumental structures,

immediately after decease. Families may purchase freeholds here ; and the grave thus secured is never disturbed. My informant said, that in other burial-grounds, the coffins are liable to be dug up after ten years from the period of interment. On those occasions, little else but bones are discernible ; the coffins being only *one quarter of an inch* in thickness ! (as I have noticed in another Chapter) and only the most wealthy of the inhabitants choosing to defray the expense of burying in double, or inch and quarter thickness, still less in lead. The view of the country from this eminence, comprising the newly-erected church of “*Nôtre Dame de bon secours*,” on the heights of St. Catherine’s Hill, is one of the most captivating ranges of landscape in the north of France. I afterwards made a slight sketch of the river and its scenery, from a spot where we saw some horses watering, and several lads wading into the Seine for refreshment, in a tremendously hot afternoon. It was at the beginning of the road leading to Paris, and at the end of the Cours Dauphin, opposite to a little house of entertainment, which exhibited a sign

of three renowned monarchs, and its title of "Hôtel des Empereurs." Francis of Austria, Napoleon, and Alexander the "magnanimous" were there in most enviable concord and repose; though the allocation made me reflect on the many occasions when such a picture might have served to express the belief of the German and the Czar, that the chances were *two to one* they both lost their thrones or their capitals, through such perilous acquaintance. I added the physiognomies of this triumvirate, for "auld lang syne" sake, to my memoranda: but the landscape is a rich morceau of wholly the right sort. Normandy abounds with these prospects, and thus rivals our own picturesque England.

July 11.—Another visit to the cathedral, more and more to admire. The lancet-windows of the 13th century, stained in purple and blue, are, beyond comparison, the most splendid samples of this peculiar style I have seen in Europe. There is one in the sacristie beyond all description beautiful. I was glad to see the whole of the northern transept appropriated to the poor. A large tablet was affixed to the walls

bearing the inscription, "Place réservée pour les pauvres." Here also was "the Duke of Bedford's tomb," and singularly beautiful "staircase," leading to the cathedral library. I could not clearly understand why the said Gothic stone staircase was called the Duke of Bedford's ; as it was erected by order of Cardinal William d'Estouteville. His Grace of Bedford died at Rouen, in September 1435, four years after the murder of Joan of Arc. Possibly the cardinal merely carried out the deceased regent's original design.

I enquired in the sacristie for the casket containing the heart of Richard Cœur de Lion, but could gain no intelligence of it. Certain antiquarians instituted a search in the summer of the year 1838 for the body of Richard, and found the statue which we were this day shewn, (nearly six feet three or four inches in length) ; and, subsequently, a double box of lead, bearing this inscription, in German text letters,

Hic : jacet : cor : Richardi : regis :
Anglorum :

We then examined the monumental effigy of

a bishop lying in a niche or cavity, not far from the back of the altar, concerning whom a somewhat extraordinary little history is related as to the cause of his being stowed away in the thickness of the wall where we found him.

Monsieur A. Deville, an antiquarian of the city, affirms, on credible evidence, that this is the statue of Maurice, Archbishop of Rouen, who died in the year 1235; and who in his lifetime happened to be overcome with a fit of anger at some offence given by his servant, and knocked his life out of him with a soup ladle! The prelate, repenting, desired that he might not be interred within the consecrated building, as one altogether unworthy to be buried beneath its pavement; but he also forbade his executors and clergy to bury him *outside* the church. The worthy men were somewhat



posed at this ambiguous order; and at length made a cavity in the thickness of the wall, and there deposited his

carcase, which is now surmounted by the stone

effigy we looked upon, and could not but smile at.

On this occasion we saw four gallons of water consecrated in the choir :—I presume for use in baptism. Two secular priests carried it out afterwards, in a large plated vase, to the vestry room : having left a small portion behind in a vessel near the eagle-desk. A dignitary of the cathedral then took an aspersion brush, with plated silver handle, and sprinkled the whole body of ministering priests, choristers, and all other ecclesiastical and lay officials : then, entering the nave and aisles, he sprinkled the faces of all the boarding school boys and girls ranged conveniently for that purpose. After this two huge rings, twenty inches in diameter, of Brioche cakes, and three long loaves of the same savoury bread, were brought forward from the sacristie, to be blessed ; which we saw done. Then began a procession : music very beautiful ;—the choir organ, and a bassoon constituting the instrumental portion.

On arriving at the chapel generally open for

Protestant service on Sunday, we found it closed. So few English were at this time in Rouen that the ordinary attendance was no longer given.

Visited the very ancient little church of St. Paul's, the road to which commands exquisite views of Rouen and the Seine.* This early record of Christian worship is considered to be an edifice of the year 1031. It exhibits three semicircular *absides*, which were formerly chapels, and are now used as vestry-rooms to the modern church built as an appendage to the ancient one. There is a row of very curious heads inserted under the ledge of the roof, or eaves, of these three round projections.



Some are represented, life-size, with large moustaches. One of five was very perfectly preserved, and I give it here. Cotman, whose conjectures on these architec-

tural oddities are very happy, suggests that these

* The white rock projects at this point, 200 feet in height, like the cliff at Hastings.

moustaches must have been a satire on the Saxons, whose visages exhibited the hairy appendage at a time when the Normans had their heads completely shaved. Robert Waice, a French poetical chronicler of the twelfth century, who was a canon of Bayeux and chaplain to our Henry II., wrote a poem in the Norman French dialect, which I had an opportunity of seeing when I was a reader in the British Museum, entitled *Le Brut, ou Histoire des Rois d'Angleterre, en vers Francois*; and to this rhyming old priest of Jersey is attributed the *Roman de Rou*; wherein he states that at the battle of Hastings the English took the bald-faced Normans to be an army of priests!

We saw the vast hospital or "Hospice Général," (Rue Bourgeoise) comprising a multitude of two thousand souls. This charitable institution receives within its walls such poor orphans as are found destitute; as well as foundlings. They are brought up together with the latter, but are maintained at the expense of

the villages to which they belong; while the foundlings are chargeable to the county or department. These are sent out to nurse till twelve years old, and the number received yearly amounts to between five and six hundred; a foul stigma, be it said, on Rouen. Once a week two coaches, filled with these poor little creatures, are sent off into the country, where they are dispersed into different homes, and placed out to nurse; the medical men of the parishes being paid for any attendance required on their account, out of funds levied by the corporation for that purpose.

There is an asylum, also, for the insane, (comprehending nearly seven hundred patients,) standing on a space of twenty acres, where the *Sœurs de la Charité* conduct the business in every ward with all the humanity and skill characterizing that saintly sisterhood; and, besides this, there is the Hôtel Dieu, in the Faubourg Cauchoise, midway between the river and the Havre railway. Six hundred beds are in use here, and upwards of four thousand patients relieved every year.

The bedsteads are all of iron. One large ward was occupied exclusively by soldiers. The principle on which this establishment is conducted is very considerate and liberal. It is reserved exclusively for the reception of the inhabitants of the town, excepting in cases of great urgency, when, if the patients be found incurable after six months' stay, they are transferred to the Hospice Général, if the party have resided ten years in Rouen. The Hôtel Dieu has stood upwards of a century.

The barracks (Caserne Martainville) and Military Parade Ground (Champ de Mars) well repaid our dusty walk; but the "Good News Barracks" across the river, near the gas-works, illustrate the reverse of the

"Cedant arma togæ ;"

for the monks of the ancient priory to which queen Matilda, wife of William the Conqueror, gave the name of "Bonne Nouvelle," when she heard of our defeat at the battle of Hastings, have long been supplanted by cuirassiers, dra-

goons, and infantry, who may be seen here, any day, burnishing their carbines, polishing their breastplates, and pipe-claying their belts among the foundations of corridors and cloisters, where

“When Harold was invaded,
And falling lost his crown,”

the gowned friars told their beads, wrote out long legends, culled simples, and made medicines, bottled off their wine, and sauntered through life in all the *strenua inertia* of monastic inefficiency.

We were deeply interested in a morning's visit to the museum, Musée Departemental des Antiquités de Rouen, first founded in the year 1833. I counted the names of 178 contributors to its stores; but it has been enriched from various quarters and befriended by public bodies. It is surprising to behold how much of really valuable matter has been accumulated within fourteen years. The Council Général of the Department of the Lower Seine first gave attention to this very meritorious undertaking at the

instance of Baron Dupont Delporte, who was Prefect at the period just mentioned. The town-council gave up the two galleries of the ancient cloister of the convent of the Virgin Mary (founded in 1680), together with the court and vestibule; and the ingenuity of Mons. Gregoire, county surveyor and architect, and of Mons. Deville, the antiquarian already mentioned, transformed the premises of the half-decayed monastery into a hall of science, well worth the regard of every scholar and archæologist that spends a day in Rouen.

One of the first curiosities shewn was the old oaken door of the house of Pierre Corneille, which was pulled down some years since. The lock and knocker are still on it. This was presented by a Mons. Lefoyer, who at the same time gave the iron shaft or pivot on which once revolved the cock surmounting the vane of the cathedral spire, destroyed in the fire of 1822.

Near this were some enormous iron and stone cannon-balls, some of which had been found in the moats of Rouen, (where the forts once stood,) and some at Harfleur.

We then noticed a very curious frieze of an ancient house, in carved wood, painted, representing negroes in the Brazils hewing down trees, and conveying the timber aboard ship. This quaint piece of illustration was actually to be seen on the Hôtel de Bresil in Rouen, ten years ago; when the house was demolished to make way for the improvements of the city.

There were several cinerary urns, tablets, and monumental stones of the Gallo-Romani, or last surviving families of the Roman nation that lived in France at the period of the Roman name becoming extinct in the country.

We saw another curious frieze in sculptured stone, taken from an old house (pulled down in 1837), and representing "the Seven Liberal Arts, Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Music, Geometry, and Astronomy."

Near this was another Roman tombstone—

..... MARCIANO MRCEL.

..... NUS SOLINIF. PATER. P.

In the interior are some very curious painted

glass windows of the sixteenth century ; originally executed for public buildings in Rouen. Also some Roman tiles, bricks, and vessels of red pottery earth.

Near one of the old windows was a frame containing certain writings, such as charters, leases, and releases, covenants, &c., of very ancient date.

Among them I espied a manuscript purporting to grant certain lands and privileges to one Richard, son of Archbishop Robert ; beginning, " In the name of the blessed and undivided Trinity . . . "



Signum

WILLELMI NORMANORUM
DUCIS.

A.D. 1038.

and ending with a cross :—of which I here annex a fac-simile.

It was the mark, and nothing less, of William the Conqueror, whose name is imperishable in history ; but this is tolerably good evidence that he could not write it at the age of fourteen.

Near to it was a document or deed signed by Richard, second Duke of Normandy ; at the close of the tenth century.

The plaster mask, taken shortly after death, of Henri Quatre, Roi de France.

Six very curious frames of painted glass, illustrating the old story of the Jew who stuck his knife into the consecrated wafer of the Romish Sacrament. Date of the sixteenth century; formerly in the church of St. Eloi, at Rouen.

There were several Roman coins and medals in very good preservation. Among these were the heads of Pompey, Tiberius, Otho, Plotina, wife of Trajan, Pertinax, &c. Also a valuable assortment of French coin, from the period of the Merovingian Kings to the present day.

The Norman and Anglo-Norman coins included those of Richard I. and II., William the Conqueror, William Rufus (*le roux*), Henry I. and II., Richard Cœur de Lion and John. (*Jean sans terre*!)

Several Popes' bulls, from the days of Innocent II. (1130) to Benedict XIV. (1758.)

A capital, in stone, of a column which stood

in the Church of St. Gervais, at Rouen (mentioned in the last chapter), and supposed to be as old as the sixth century.

We saw here a very good fac-simile, in porcelain, of our "Portland Vase," "*brisé par un insensé en 1845.*" At the period of this being added to the Rouen Collection, the directors probably conceived that the precious relic, which cost the duke's family 2000*l.* was hopelessly demolished.

More and more painted glass, almost all of the sixteenth century, from various churches and chapels that had fallen into decay, or sustained irretrievable damage within the last hundred and fifty years.

The subjects of the paintings are chiefly legendary, and devoid of interest, and the glass so close to the eye as to lose much of its effect. It is the largest collection, public or private, in the kingdom; and comprehends upwards of seven hundred square feet superficial measure.

There were five casts from the celebrated basso-relieoes of the Hôtel de Bourgtheroulde, already mentioned, the dexterous performance of a Mons. Pellegrin, who, upon a subscription being for this purpose set on foot by several of the principal inhabitants, succeeded in producing a very pleasing copy. I stated that these bas-reliefs represented the interview of Henry VIII. and Francis I. at the field of the Cloth of Gold.

1. The first to the left hand shews the town of Guines, from whose gates Henry and his suite are coming forth.

2. The second exhibits the *cortège* of Henry, conspicuous in which rides Cardinal Wolsey.

3. The third illustrates the meeting of the two monarchs, escorted by their horse-guards. (This is the most perfect in the original.)

4. The fourth displays the suite of Francis.

5. The fifth, the town of Ardres, from whose gates the French King's retinue is seen issuing, as, in the first, was seen the English King's train.

There were some good specimens of armour,

and some modern weapons. Among these was a tomahawk, which the Frenchmen designate *une casse tête!* (a crack-skull) of New Zealand.

Among other weapons was a small piece of artillery for use in swivel fashion, brought from the castle of Folleville, near Bernay. It was about four feet six in length, and resembled a gun within a gun.

These uncouth engines were in use up to the year 1697.

We saw a medal (two and a quarter inches in diameter) of the head of Napoleon on a pillow. Under which was his wish respecting the disposal of his body; *i. e.* its interment on the banks of the Seine.

The fragment of the George d'Amboise bell I have already mentioned.

There was ample amusement for three or four hours' cursory survey of this little museum, which I would advise all travellers passing

through Rouen to visit. It is very creditable to the savans of the city, and indicates a very high degree of refinement in the knowledge and cultivation of arts and sciences.

We finished the day's work with a leisurely survey of the Palais de Justice (the courts of law), one of the most exquisitely beautiful samples of the transition from Gothic architecture to that of the *renaissance* (as it is termed) that France can exhibit. Were I to describe its general effect or particular details never so accurately, (and the best description is often, if not always, the most tedious and tiresome,) I should utterly fail. I visited and revisited it again and again; wondering at the minutiae of its delicate beauty as much as at its grand *tout ensemble*: just as travellers gaze delighted on the Cathedral of Milan, whose fligree-like minarets, steeples, and statues might be supposed to have been conjured up *here*, in detachments, to bear a part in the charm: and, with all the faithful recollections of similar architecture on a more stupendous scale, I incline to place this *chef d'œuvre* of Roger Ango among the most meri-

torious of the works of art that present themselves to the eye of the tourist in the various capitals of Europe. It is, as it were, but a cabinet picture ; but the *finish* is charming ; and, like the diminutive panel or canvas, is the more delectable for being comprehended in space neither too vast for close examination, nor too contracted to be insignificant. Like Melrose Abbey, it is eminently beautiful by full moonlight.

“ For the fair beams of lightsome day
Gild, but to flout, the ruins gray.
When the broken arches are black in night,
And each shafted oriel glimmers white ;
When the cold light’s uncertain shower
Streams on the ruined central tower ;
When buttress and buttress, alternately,
Seem framed of ebon and ivory ;
When silver edges the imagery,—

* * *

Then go—but go alone the while.”

W. SCOTT.

Parvis de la Cathedrale.—I have never seen Mr. Moses’s Grand Magazine in the city of London ; though his indefatigable bill-deliverers have thrust his address into my hands, or flung them on me when riding in the East ;—but I can hardly suppose he has outdone the proprietor

of No. 29 in the Place de la Cathedrale at Rouen, whose Ready Made Clothes Repository we beheld illuminated with as many lights as would serve for beacon guides through half the coast of the Mediterranean. Three stories of this large mansion were radiant with large gas-lamps; eight principal lanthorns projecting from the balconies, and the interior of all the apartments appearing as lurid as if there had actually been a conflagration. It is, after all, a vulgar ticketed shop, but astonishes the natives not only with its powers of "confection," (see Chapter V. vol. I.) and facilities whereby *fieri facias* any sort of clothing; but, also with this *fiery face* with which it glares on the venerable old cathedral, as if intent on melting the "Butter Tower," at least, into annihilation. Considering how burned children dread the fire, I wonder the archbishop permits such a "flare up" within a stone's-throw of the hallowed edifice.

The grand night, I am sorry to say, is that of the Sunday. We passed by as the ancient curfew bell's clear deep tones came upon the southern breeze from the Grosse Horloge; and

just as the seats of them who sold all sorts of flowering shrubs, choice flowers, and fruits, between the cathedral steps and this Chapelle Ardeute of Mammon, were being stowed away for the night.

This "Parvis," or space before the church-porch, is allotted by the town authorities for a flower, seed, and shrub-market on Friday and Sunday. Up to the commencement of the eighteenth century this was the place on which the public bonfires were lighted; and the "confectioner" at No. 29 seems desirous of keeping up the charter, together with his small profits (?) and quick returns. My readers are, possibly, not aware that Hubert the watch-maker, who was hanged in London upon his own confession, in 1666, as the incendiary who first kindled the great Fire of London, arrived at the Tower wharf in a vessel from Rouen, his native town, two days after the fire broke out. It was notorious that this man did not land till on the third day *after* that on which he affirmed he set fire to the city:—the captain of the vessel having deposed to that fact.

Opposite to our hotel was a dog of singular appearance, a great favourite with the neighbours, and, I might add, with my son, who took pains to ascertain all that could be learned of his race and breeding.

It was a white wolf-dog of the Pyrenees ; soft, silken haired, scentless, spotless ; invaluable as a guard, and evincing, not only the utmost powers of instinct, but, as the owners affirmed, of judgment and reason ! *un chien de discernement*. This clever animal, named by the familiar English abbreviation "Miss," used to lie at the booking-office door of the Messageries Royales, Rue du Bec, noticing, with one eye open, everybody and all things. She knew why luggage was placed here or there, and whether certain descriptions of goods were intended for this or that conveyance. She would not permit crowding at the counter ; she could discern whether the book-keeper was being annoyed by too many applicants for places at once ; she barked off those who seemed to be *de trop* ; and when special care was manifested by any of the porters in arranging a party's personal effects at the moment of de-

parture, she would sit on the property till the owner began to ask for it. She was almost two sizes smaller than our common Newfoundland dog, and would have realized a high price in England. She was five years old; and *malgré* her ultraism in discipline, was a perfectly good-natured creature; and however loudly she might bark, however fiercely she might look, she was considered by all who understood her good qualities as a dog, who did everything for the best, and did it well too. We subsequently fell in with a similar dog, three years younger, on our way from Abbeville to Boulogne, homeward; and I am surprised the breed has not been introduced in England.



“Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity.”

CHAPTER II.

BEFORE I proceed to the subject of farming in Normandy, I shall briefly touch on a ceremony with which, I conceive, few, if any, of my readers are acquainted, but in which they cannot but feel some slight degree of interest ;—the marriage by civil and religious contract.

The civil contract was completed at the Town Hall of Rouen, a handsome building somewhat resembling our "Horse Guards;" full of council and committee rooms, waiting lobbies, and courts adapted for municipal business. We found upwards of sixty persons in the second-floor passages ; some being the principals, others the witnesses of marriage ; some resorting thither for certain certificates ; others, like ourselves, from sheer curiosity. We entered a small room resembling a country attorney's office, in which was a short

counter, and, beyond that, a small round table. Three clerks or secretaries of superior rank were seated in chairs behind this counter, taking down depositions, and now and then reading over some papers to the party chiefly concerned, whom we saw signing their names and answering certain questions, and paying over some money. At the extremity of the counter, nearest to the door and to us, stood a wooden iron-bound vessel, the counterpart of the Black Jack of the fifteenth century, with a slit in the lid, into which the affianced couple and several of the persons accompanying them dropped pieces of money ; or, rather, I should say, they did this through one of the secretaries, who collected their oblations in a silver plate, from which he gathered up the coin to drop it into the wooden tankard just mentioned.

I was informed that this money forms a charitable fund for the support of missionaries abroad, and prisoners and hospital patients, and church repairs at home.

The best-attired couple present contributed four francs. This office was furnished with half a dozen benches covered with green-baize, on which sat

in order, as they arrived, the several parties applying for the ratification of the civil contract. The veiled bride was a very plain young woman ; and I was not sorry to see her trembling with timidity ; such manifestations of feeling being very rare in my experience of late years ; the women in our rural districts seeming to be only too well pleased that the affair is come off at last, and no mistake !

While the clerks were completing the necessary documents for the half dozen parties that had arrived at, I think, half-past 11 A.M., I walked aside into a very spacious saloon with which the office communicated, and in which was an apparatus similar to that in the antechamber, of green-baize covered counter and seats.

The counter here was about twelve feet long, placed at about four feet distance from the pier between the principal windows. Behind it were three or four chairs raised on a dais or slight elevation above the floor ;—one of which, the central chair, was evidently intended for the chief officer who should afterwards be forthcoming.

In front of this long table or counter were

six common stained beech drawing-room or boudoir chairs, and, at an interval of about fourteen feet behind them, were several long benches on which the public might at pleasure seat themselves. However, before any one entered this apartment or hall of audience and ceremony, I quietly walked up to the counter, and took up the leather cover of a book which I espied lying on it. Leaves there were none. It was but the back and sides serving to contain a printed form, which was pasted into it, and which, by leave of the usher of court in attendance, I transcribed.

CHAP. VI. Des Droits et devoirs respectifs des Epoux.

Les Epoux se doivent mutuellement fidelité, secours, assistance.

Le Mari doit protection à sa femme ; la femme obeissance à son mari.

La Femme est obligée d'habiter avec le mari, et de le suivre partout où il juge à propos de résider. Le mari est obligé de la recevoir et de lui fournir tout ce qui est nécessaire pour les besoins de la vie, selon ses facultés et son état.

TRANSLATION.

On the respective rights and obligatory duties of married couples :—

The man and wife are bound to observe mutual fidelity, and to render to each other reciprocal aid and assistance.

The husband is required to protect his wife ; the wife is to live obedient to her husband.

The wife is bound to dwell together with the husband, and to follow him everywhere, according to whatever choice he may make as to residence.

The husband is bound to receive her to his home, and to supply her with all the necessaries of life, according to his means and condition.

By the time I had transcribed this wholesome bit of matter-of-fact and civil ordinance, the mayor had left his private apartments, and was on the point of entering the saloon, accompanied by two other municipal officers called the adjuncts (*adjoints*) or joint commissioners.

Each wore the national tricoloured silk sash round his waist. They proceeded to the counter, and, stationing themselves on the three chairs, remained there a minute while the usher of court was marshalling the principal party, six in number, in their places. They were at length seated in the six chairs abovementioned ; upon which the mayor, standing between his colleagues, took up the book-cover, and the marriage party rose at the same instant, and stood till he had read to them the "*Droits et devoirs*," I have just quoted ;

after which he read the following certificate, for the transcription of which I was indebted to the same usher who had facilitated my inspection of the mayor's office-book.

No 361. MAIRIE DE ROUEN.

BUREAU DE L'ETAT CIVIL.

M. Louis Casimér Ravette et Mademoiselle Marie Fortunée Douville ont été mariés en cette ville le Samedi, 10 Juillet 1847.

J. C. PERAULT,
Adjoint au Maire, et
Officier de L'Etat Civil délégué.

Avis aux personnes mariés. Vous êtes invités à garder ce Bulletin destiné principalement à vous mettre en état de donner correctement vos prénoms et noms de famille, lors de l'enregistrement de la naissance de vos enfans.

which, being translated, runs thus :—

“ Notice to married persons. You are advised to take care of this certificate ; the chief use of which is to enable you to give a correct statement of your names (baptismal and family name) when your children's names shall be registered in the book of entries of births.

The mayor then gave them this certificate, and they went away, leaving the room clear for succeeding couples, and hastening towards the Church where the religious ceremony was to be solemnized.

I believe the names of parties thus to be joined by civil contract are affixed on some public place in the Town Hall for a fortnight or three weeks : a notification corresponding with the ecclesiastical publication of banns.

Our legal antiquary Selden, derives this word "banns," from the Saxon "bannan," to proclaim, publish, or decree ; as though this form of proceeding were the publication of a decree, resolution, or purpose of marriage. The banns are published in the churches in France. I was present at the conclusion of mass one morning at a church in Rouen, and saw a clergyman reading from a book in the pulpit, but so indistinctly and unimpressively that I could not conceive what he was engaged in. Hereupon I inquired of the verger in attendance, and learned that he was proclaiming the banns. This is done, as in England, through three Sundays.

By the law of April 8th, 1802, the priest is prohibited from pronouncing the benediction over married couples who have not been previously united by civil contract. Should he contravene in this particular, he incurs, for the

first offence, a penalty not less than two pounds ten shillings, nor exceeding four pounds. For the *second*, he may be imprisoned from two to five years; for the *third*, he is to be transported, or, in commutation of that sentence, imprisoned for life !

Before I proceed to state what ceremony is used in the marriage solemnized in churches, I may as well mention one which is sometimes, but rarely, observed by parties engaged to each other, and who, under certain circumstances, are desirous of strengthening such engagement by holy vow and rite. This is the ceremony termed *Les Fiançailles*—The Betrothing.

It is not imperative on the parties. It may be performed at any season, or on any day, except the day of marriage; but not later than on the evening previous, at 9 o'clock. The contracting parties must bring with them at least two respectable witnesses; and the ceremony must not be performed anywhere but in the parish church, unless by dispensation from the archbishop. The clergyman on these occasions wears a surplice and white stole; and is attended by a

clerk or other minister, who carries the Ritual or Office Book, and the vase containing holy water and the aspersion or sprinkling brush, (described in Chapter II. Vol. I.) He bends down at the steps of the altar, offers up a short prayer, and then repairs to the door of entry into the choir, or proceeds to some chapel in the aisle, where he stations himself at the altar thereof. Upon his taking up his station here, the party approach, with their witnesses. The clergyman stands up, places the man at his left hand, and the woman at his right; he makes the sign of the cross on himself, saying, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

He then puts on his cap, and in an elevated tone of voice addresses the two engaged persons, in the following words:—

"The ceremony of Betrothing, which from the earliest times has constantly preceded the celebration of Marriage, is altogether distinct from the Sacrament* you purpose receiving. It is a simple promise which Christians who are

* The Romanists regard matrimony as a sacrament.

to be joined together in Matrimony make to one another in the face of the Church previously to their being irrevocably bound. The union which you are on the point of contracting is so holy, and the issues thereof are of such importance to you both, that the Church only receives your engagements by degrees, as it were, and is desirous of assuring herself of your entire and hearty concurrence and assent, before she blesses and consecrates your vows. Such is the object of Christian betrothings; and if, in the name of the Lord, we bless these simple promises, it is that you may hereby be led to the better ordering of your hearts towards the excellent grace of the sacrament."

He then addresses both :—

" You, Jean Sauvan, and you, Marie Coulon, promise before God that you will truly make answer to the questions I am about to put to you?"

A. " We promise. "

" You profess the Catholic, Apostolic, and Romish Faith and Religion, and, by the grace of God, are disposed to live and die in the same?"

A. " Yes, sir."

“Are you assured there is no impediment why you should not mutually make promise of marriage ? ”

A. “ Yes, sir.”

Then the clergyman, if his interrogatory be suited to the age, condition, and circumstances of the party, adds this question ?

“ Are your fathers and mothers, or other authorities to whom you owe allegiance, consenting to your mutual promises ? ”

A. “ Yes ; ” (or, whatever the answer may be.)

“ You present yourselves here in full freedom of will, and independent of all restraint ? ”

A. “ Yes ; ” (or, as the case may be.)

On their having replied to each question, and the clergyman having reason to believe from other sources of knowledge, that there is no just cause or impediment why the party should not be admitted to the celebration of their betrothing, he says :

“ We shall now proceed to accept in the name of the Church your mutual promises, which you will ratify in the moment of your subsequent reception of the Sacrament of Marriage.”

He then bids them take each other's right hand, and addressing himself to the man, says,

“Jean Sauvan, you promise before God, that you will take for your wife and lawful spouse, in the face of Holy Church, Marie Coulon here present, when by her you shall be required so to do, if there be no lawful impediment?”

A. “I promise so to do.”

He then addresses the woman.

“Marie Coulon, you promise before God that you will take for your husband and lawful spouse, in the face of Holy Church, Jean Sauvan here present, when by him you shall be required so to do, if there be no lawful impediment?”

A. “I promise so to do.”

The clergyman then takes off his cap, and makes, in the air, the sign of the cross, over them both, saying :—

“And I receive your mutual promise, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

He then takes the sprinkler, and casts some drops of water on them in the form of the cross.

Then he addresses them to this effect :—

“ The nearer the moment approaches in which religion is to bind you one to the other, the more, my dear brother and my dear sister, you ought to purify your souls, watch over yourselves, regulate the thoughts of your minds, and the feelings of your hearts, that you may not incur the guilt of profaning a sacrament which Jesus Christ instituted to sanctify mankind. You ought not only to receive it with a conscience purified by the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but the Church entertains that favourable opinion of your sense of religion, to believe, that after the example of the earliest faithful followers of Christ, you will be still more perfectly disposed towards this particular sacrament, by your receiving the Holy Eucharist.

Beware, my dear brother, and my dear sister, of causing God to withdraw His countenance from your marriage, and thus depriving yourselves of the blessings He is ready to shed upon you. Shun with carefulness everything which can oppose itself to that modesty which becomes a Christian. Far be from you, those mad tumultuous pleasures to which the children of this world aban-

don themselves, and which are so unworthy of the dignified character of the Christian. Consecrate the brief interval which is to lapse between this and the holy ceremony of your marriage, consecrate it, we conjure you, to serious recollection and prayer. Think on the importance of the engagement you are on the eve of contracting before Holy Church, your Mother; reflect, that it is irrevocable, and must exercise no slight influence on your happiness, both in time and in eternity. Strive, therefore, to propitiate Heaven by the purity of your motives, and by the sanctified character of your feelings and disposition."

The clergyman then adds, if he think fit :—

"The Church exhorts you not to dwell in the same house till your marriage shall have been solemnized."

Entry is made of this betrothing in the Parochial Registers.

I think there is much to respect and admire in this well-intentioned preliminary to marriage. Doubtless there have been many who have received worthily the kind offices of a guardian church, thus thoughtfully and reverently ad-

monishing her children how to approach that altar where indissoluble vows, and inextricable engagements are recorded before God and man. There are those whom such a religious appeal might serve to instruct and improve in, at least, one particular. How common is it to see young ladies, stated to be *engaged*, running a round of dissipation in the absence of their accepted partner for life,—open to every young man's attentions, joining in every dance, almost, throughout a long night,—handed up by one, handed off by another,—praised, flattered, flirted with by every smart young beau who laments her approaching retirement from the ranks of single blessedness,—and frequently allowing herself the wider latitude in these gay scenes, *because she is an engaged woman*; and every one must know that she means nothing henceforth by any of the pretty little sayings and doings, “quips and cranks and wreathed smiles,” which quiz and torment despairing admirers and rivals beyond all endurance. I would not, in saying this, make, as the rustics say, “fish of one, and fowl of the other,” by impeaching the fair sex alone in this

particular. I saw, through ten years, a moderately gay life in London, and thought the men, the *engaged men*, pretty much as culpable in the points here touched, as the young ladies ; and though the world judges the latter more severely in all such derelictions, major or minor, I consider the affianced man to be altogether as amenable to censure for light conduct, after plighted engagement, as the girl who has promised to be his for evermore.

My sentiments on this head, which I fearlessly record, knowing them to be consistent with all that is "of good report," have induced me to insert the *Celebration des Fiançailles* at length ; possibly for the first time that such an account of the ceremony has been laid before the public : so little is known of the way in which " they order these things in France."

The Roman Catholic Church interdicts marriages in the season of Advent, and from Christmas-day to the Feast of Epiphany inclusive ; as also during Lent and Easter. Sunday is a prohibited day likewise, and any high festival.

All marriages must be solemnized in the fore-

noon. The church enjoins the receiving of the Lord's Supper ; there being, in fact, a special form for the mass on occasion of marriage.

The archbishop of the province has power to grant permission to parties to be married in the evening, or in the night-time, or early in the morning ; special cause being alleged.

By virtue of this grant, parties may be married at 2 A.M. between April 1st and September 30th, and at 3 A.M. between the 1st October and the 31st March.

The parish church is the place where marriages should be solemnized. All unconsecrated dwellings are strictly interdicted ; and the archbishop's licence must be obtained before a party can be married in a non-parochial church or private chapel.

There are several documents essential to the solemnization of marriage in the church.

1. The certificate of the baptism both of the man and of the woman.

2. The certificate of the death of the former husband or former wife, in case a widow or widower apply to be married

3. A certificate declaring the assent of the parents, guardians, or other lawful authorities to whom both or one of the party may happen to be subject, being a minor.

4. The certificate of the death of the deceased parents.

But, if the clergyman happen to know that the second, third, and fourth certificate (supposing each to be requisite) have been already laid before the civil authorities when the civil contract was ratified, he may dispense with their production in church.

5. An extract from the banns-book, if either party have been "asked" in another church. And any other such document as may be requisite towards the validity of the marriage. For, if both or either of the party happen to be unbaptized, baptism must precede marriage; otherwise the marriage would be null and void. The consent of the archbishop must be obtained, before baptism, in this case, can be administered. Should the parties be unable to adduce any proofs of their having been baptized, the clergyman must refer such case to the archbishop.

Both man and woman must have *confessed* before presentation of themselves to receive the sacrament of marriage. The clergyman is forbidden to proceed if they have not complied with "this ancient unintermitted discipline of the church."

As was mentioned above, the clergyman must not proceed one step without a formal certificate of the previously ratified civil contract.

There are also several articles and emblems to be in readiness on the occasion of the religious ceremony.

1. A vase containing consecrated water ; with the brush of sprinkling.

2. A basin in which is dropped the Ring (called also the Alliance) and the piece or pieces of metal which are to be blessed.

The ring must be of gold or silver, without any precious stone or gem, or engraving of any kind.

The piece of money, or the medal, presented to the woman in token of Endowment may be

of any metal. But no benediction is to be pronounced over it, if it happen to bear any inscription or design at variance with the strictest decorum.

3. A white stole (a long vest) with a surplice, if the clergyman who officiates at the marriage is not to say mass.

4. The amice, (undermost part of a priest's habit) the alb, or short surplice, and the girdle or cordon with white ornaments, if the mass for marriages is to be said.

When the priest who pronounces the benediction over the married party is also to celebrate mass, the chasuble (a white linen vest without sleeves) and the maniple, (a long band worn over the left arm, like half a scarf) are deposited on the altar, by the side of the Gospel.

5. A white veil or cloth, (generally richly embroidered and edged with lace,) called the *Poêle*, which is stretched over the married pair while the officiating minister is offering up the propitiatory prayer, and pronouncing the benedictions.

Neither this veil, however, nor the benediction

is used on the occasion of the nuptials of a widow, or of a woman whose reputation has been notoriously bad.

When the clergyman is to celebrate marriage between parties of whom one only is a Roman Catholic, he reads over to himself the dispensation obtained by the Romanist, and, this done, ascertains that two witnesses are in attendance, (in accordance with the enactments of the Council of Trent) and proceeds so far only with the ceremony as to receive the mutually declared consent of the parties to live together in matrimony. No prayer, nor blessing, nor other ecclesiastical ceremony follows. It is considered a marriage *hors de l'Eglise*. But should the individual who is the Romanist desire that there be an offering up of the host, or Sacramental communion, on his particular behalf, the clergyman is empowered to comply with such request, but not say the mass appointed to be used at the Celebration of Marriage, or go through any one of the forms usual on such occasions of religious solemnity.

There is a form prescribed for the marriage *in extremis*; that is, for a case in which one of the

party, being likely to die very soon, is earnestly desirous of making the woman his wife, (and *vice versâ*).^{*} Even in this case, nothing can be done unless there have been previously a ratification of the civil contract. Should this have been duly observed, the clergyman may dispense with the certificate of banns, if the archbishop be willing to grant such licence, and overrule any other form which might operate as a hindrance.

The clergyman having summoned into his presence the two witnesses, receives the expressed consent of the contracting parties; and this is regarded as a valid marriage, though the benediction of the ring be omitted, as well as the other ceremonies ordinarily observed on occasions of marriage.

Children born out of wedlock are legitimized in the eye of the Church by the subsequent

^{*} An instance of this fell under my notice very recently. In the *Madrid News* of Feb. 1st, 1848, an account appeared of the execution of two Spaniards, condemned to be shot at Lerida, for robbing a priest of the town of Muz. One of these malefactors, Vincente Porta, a native of Alcarraz, was *married* on the morning of his execution (!) Wednesday, January 26th, "in order to satisfy an engagement."

marriage of their parents, provided that at the period of conception there existed between those parents no absolute impediment, invalidating marriage, which lay beyond the powers of a dispensation. I shall shew how the church exercises the Condonation in the course of the narrative of the

ORDER OF CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE.

The place and the position of the officiating clergyman and of the parties and their witnesses are, on this occasion, identical with those already described under the head of the Betrothing.

Having exclaimed "In the name of the Father" he continues—

"You are come hither for the purpose of contracting a marriage in the face of the Church?"

A. "Yes, sir."

"You profess the Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman Faith and Religion?"

A. "Yes, sir."

"You come before us in full liberty, free from all restraint?"

A. "Yes, sir" (as the case may be).

He then raises his voice, saying,—

“Christian people, as many as may here be present, we declare to you that (according to the usual custom, or by dispensation,) the banns of marriage * have been thrice (or twice, or once,) published in this church, (or in this church and in the church of —,) between A. B. and C. D., and that no impediment has been alleged.

“We announce to you, for the last time, the resolution they have formed to be joined together in the sacred ties of marriage; and by authority of the Church we command all of you, under pain of excommunication, to declare at this present time if you know of any absolute impediment by virtue of which this marriage cannot be lawfully celebrated. In like manner we interdict you, under the same penalties, from throwing any obstacle in the way, out of malicious feeling, and without any just pretence. We also declare to you that all those persons who shall sign or, as witnesses, certify the act of this present marriage,

* On some occasions the archbishop is pleased to grant his dispensation; and the banns are published once or twice only; in which case the clergyman publicly proclaims such dispensation, at this passage.

would equally incur the penalty of excommunication, if they presumed to sign contrarily to the dictates of conscience, and with cognizance that the parties who are to be joined together would be living under the influence of such an absolutely invalidating impediment as must render their marriage null and void in the eye of God." *

After a pause of a few moments, if no representation be made by any one, the clergyman takes off his cap, and says,

"Forasmuch as there is nothing to prevent our proceeding with the celebration of this marriage, we will beseech God that He will vouchsafe to bless the union of these two persons who are to be joined in wedlock, for the glory of His holy name, and for the salvation of their souls."

Then, turning to the altar, he blesses the

* Besides ; the archbishop, and occasionally the Pope, grants a dispensation overruling the "let and hindrance," or the interdict as to certain seasons of the Christian year. If the clergyman conceives that the public proclamation of this licence would give offence in any quarter, he is at liberty to omit it.

ring and the piece of precious metal given at the marriage in token of endowment, saying,

“Our help is in the name of the Lord;”
crossing himself at the word “name.”

A. “Who made heaven and earth.”

“Lord, hear my prayer.”

A. “And let my cry come unto thee.”

“The Lord be with you.”

A. “And with thy spirit.”

Let us pray:—

“O Thou the Creator and Preserver of the human race, Giver of spiritual grace, the bountiful Bestower of eternal salvation,—thou Lord! send down Thy blessing upon this ring, (here he lays his hand on it, making the sign of the cross,) that she who shall wear it, keeping her faith whole and undefiled towards her husband, may ever remain in Thy peace, and live according to Thy will, and in mutual affection, through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Let us pray:

“Sanctify, O Lord! this piece of money,

(here he takes the piece, or pieces into his hand) offered in token of a settled endowment, and, that the bride may be well gifted, instruct her ever with Thy heavenly teaching, through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Then he sprinkles holy water on the said pieces of money or medals, in the form of the cross. They are afterwards religiously kept by the parties through their lifetime.

With regard to this part of the ceremony, and the coin or medal of dotation, I may quote Dean Comber's commentary on the Ceremony of Protestant Matrimony, as regards the words "with all my worldly goods I thee endow."* "The second right (the first being the honour due to a lawful spouse) of a wife is Maintenance, which is also assigned to her in God's law; Exodus xxi. 10; Ephes. v. 29; and is here enstated on her (settled as an investment) by her husband's saying 'With all my worldly

* Which the common people in nine cases out of ten pronounce thus, "I thee and thou!"

goods I thee endow.' At which time he lays a sum of money on the book, part of which is his oblation to God, being the dues to the priest and clerk. The rest of this money the priest gives to the bride, as it were by way of Livery and Seisin, (taking possession,) to testify her right to all the rest. Brissonius conjectures that this custom was derived from that Roman way of marriage called coemption, wherein some money was laid down for form's sake: or, else that we in England, and the French, did learn it of the ancient Germans, who did buy their wives of old; and of this rite there is frequent mention in the Burgundian and Saxon laws. But whence-soever the custom came, I doubt not but the intent of it now is, to declare that the wife has a right to use all her husband's goods; and, therefore, the money is given to *her*, and not to the parents, as it was wont to be among the northern nations. Cicero, *De Officiis*, speaking of the privilege and right of a married woman, states that she was *Κοινωνὸν ἀπάντων εἶναι, χρημάτων τε καὶ ἱερῶν*; and Dionysius of Halicarnassus quotes a traditional law of Romulus, 'that the wedded

wife who was married to a man according to the sacred laws, was to have a share in all his wealth and his sacred things.”

I candidly admit I am at a loss to discover whence Dr. Comber derives his authority for stating that the priest is to give a part of the money laid on the book by the bridegroom, to the bride; after deducting his own and the clerk's fees. I have not a copy of Selden at hand; he may probably explain this. It is not difficult, however, to perceive the meaning of the Romish ceremony of the benediction of the pieces of coin, “*pour marque de dot.*” It may be expressive enough, and sufficiently symbolical; but must be regarded as an overlaying with ceremonial.

To return to the ceremony. Here follows an exhortation, three forms of which are at the priest's discretion. It is evident that the address to the married couple in *our* form, was drawn up from these exhortations, which also embody some portion of the prefatory address to the congregation used in our service. This lasts about ten minutes.

At its close, he joins their right hands, saying—

“Jean Sauvan, you declare, acknowledge, and swear, before God and in the face of his holy Church, that you now take for your wife and lawful spouse Marie Coulon here present?”

A. “Yes, sir.”

“You promise and swear to observe fidelity towards her in all things, as a faithful husband ought to do by his wife, according to God’s commandment?”

A. “Yes, sir.”

Then he asks the same of the woman.

He is enjoined to take special care that these answers be very distinctly made, especially by the bride, *if she be very young*; that no doubt may remain in his mind as to the party pledging their vow without reservation or constraint. Should he have reason to question such spontaneous assent, he must not proceed with the ceremony; but otherwise, he goes on to take up the basin containing the *pièces de mariage* (the coins or medals), and gives the piece to the husband, who, putting it into the right hand of his bride, says thus after the clergyman:—

“Receive this token of the matrimonial agreements made between your parents (or relatives) and mine.” Or, should there be no parents or relatives, or only on one party’s side, the form runs thus:—

“Receive this token of the matrimonial agreements made between you and me, (or between your parents and me; or between you and my parents.”)

Then the clergyman presents the ring to the husband, who places it on the fourth finger of the left hand of the bride, saying—

“I give you this ring in token of the marriage we are contracting.”

Then the clergyman, taking off his cap, makes the sign of the cross on the bride’s hand, saying in a moderated tone of voice,

“In the name of the Father, &c.”

Then, stretching forth his own right hand towards the couple, he adds in a louder tone of voice,

“May the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, himself join you together, and fulfil his blessing in you. And I join you

together in the name of the Father, &c.
Amen."

Then, if there have been any antenuptial offspring, the following prayer is offered up (the said children being present or not, accordingly as the parents may have decided).

"O God, who vouchsafest to open Thy breast of pity to sinners that flee unto Thee for refuge, look down propitiously on the sorrowing minds of these two persons present, and thus appeased, forgive their transgression, that the issue therefrom proceeding, which by baptism received the adoption of sons, may by this our ministry be openly declared legitimate, and attain unto the abundant blessing of Thy grace, through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen."

If the clergyman is of opinion that any evil report might arise from this part of the ceremony, he is at liberty to omit it. Should the party, however, desire it to be observed, the *poêle* or veil is stretched over the married pair, and over the children also, if present. The veil is held

over the espoused by male friends of the bridegroom.

Then he proceeds :—

“ The Lord be with you.”

A. “ And with thy spirit.”

“ Look down, we beseech Thee, O Lord, on these espoused ones, that being filled with the excellency of Thy blessing, and being faithfully obedient to Thy will, they may grow old together in the love of Thee and in mutual affection, through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Here ends the office, to the conclusion of which our own gives echo, where the minister prays that the Almighty may pour down upon the married pair the riches of His grace, sanctify, and bless them ; and that they may please Him both in body and soul, and live together in holy love unto their lives' end.

Should the couple wish to hear mass also, the clergyman proceeds at this place to solemnize it. In that mass a longer prayer is offered up, several parts of which are retained in our form, word for word.

One passage in it is remarkable. “ May she

be loving to her husband, like Rachael, wise as Rebecca, long-lived and faithful as Sarah."

But how forcibly all these details serve to prove the refined excellence of our own rite and ceremony!

I had a little conversation with some gentlemen, whom I met on their way to Tréport, relatively to the subject of marriages and marriage fees.

Their account was, in substance, this :—

A marriage may cost from six to eighty francs, *i. e.* from five shillings to three pounds six shillings and eightpence.

"It depends," said my fellow travellers, "on the degree of pomp and circumstance accompanying it. The ritual is the same for all parties; but the manner in which the thing is got up will determine the expense."

The extremely poor are married *gratis*. The fee paid by parties in an ordinary class of life is five shillings. Marriages are solemnized almost universally in the aisle chapels. There

is a distinct form for the solemnization of marriage by his grace the Archbishop. Such marriage ceremony takes place at the great altar.

Now the chapel (within a church) holding the highest rank;—that which is considered to be of greater sanctity than any other is the chapel of the Virgin. If the party wish to be married in the Virgin Mary's Chapel, they pay from thirty-two to forty francs, *i. e.* from one pound six and eightpence to one pound thirteen and fourpence.

Some parties desire that music may accompany the mass celebrated at the time of their marriage; in which case the 128th psalm is sung by the choir, accompanied by the organ, the same which is used in our marriage service, indifferently with the 67th.

A *graduel* is also sung, so called from its being an anthem sung on the *steps* of the altar;—a practice derived from the Jewish worship.

GRADUEL.—“We are the sons of the saints, we cannot be joined as the Gentiles, who know not God. Marriage is honourable in all, and

the bed undefiled. Hallelujah, Hallelujah. This is a great sacrament, in Christ and in the church ; hallelujah."

After which follows the "trait ;" certain verses sung immediately before the reading of the Gospel : (corresponding with our 'Sanctus.')

The portion of Scripture selected from the Gospel being that according to St. Matthew, chap. xix., ending at the 6th verse.

The "trait" comprises the third, fourth, and fifth verses of the 128th psalm :—"Thy wife shall be, &c.

As the performance of all this demands the attendance of the choir, consisting perhaps of nearly twenty singers, and the services of at least one of the organists, (on extra duty,) the fees are proportionably augmented ; and when the several church officers have been paid, the sum amounts to somewhat about five pounds.

These marriages are solemnized in the choir before the great or high altar. The expense is less in the richest churches. They have a

standing force of all these officials; whereas, the minor churches, less richly endowed, can only supply such choristers through negociation with the authorities who regulate all ecclesiastical matters in the great churches; and this is the cause of heavy charges.

One of the gentlemen I have just mentioned had served as churchwarden.

Every commune has its Mayor. He and the incumbent of the commune, or parish, choose the ecclesiastical officers (churchwardens, president, and treasurer). The mayor chooses a churchwarden for the laity or parish; the incumbent chooses for the clergy, as is the case in England, where the vestrymen elect a churchwarden for the parishioners at large; and the rector, vicar, or curate, chooses what is called the minister's churchwarden.

They are at liberty to quit office at the expiration of the twelvemonth, and the electors have the right to choose others; but they are free to continue in their situation from year to

year, if such retention of office be agreeable to all parties.

My informant added, that great circumspection was exercised in selecting individuals who might safely be intrusted with the charge, and who made a point of being present at Divine Service every Sunday and festival. It were well if such considerations were duly regarded *here*.

He added, that in some churches there were *bancs* (enclosures somewhat resembling the Faculty and Manorial pews in our churches), which were hired by families at the rate of two pounds thirteen shillings and sixpence the year; which letting, in conjunction with that of the chairs, furnished a tolerably sufficient fund for the average cost of maintaining the regular services of the church.

The poorer classes leave an offering of about fivepence on the occasion of the *relevailles* (Churching):—Tenpence at a christening.

THE CHURCHING CEREMONY is as follows:—

Preface.—This ceremony must not be solemnized anywhere but in the Parish Church.

Women who have become mothers without being married, or who have been married clandestinely, or, in other words, not in the face of the Church, are not admitted to this service.

The woman ought, if possible, to be present during mass. After the mass she is to kneel at the lowest step of the altar, with a lighted taper. She presents to the priest a little cake of bread ; on which the priest says,

“ Our help is in the name of the Lord.”

A. “ Who made heaven and earth.”

“ Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

A. “ From this time forth for evermore.”

“ Let us pray :

“ Bless, O Lord, this creature of bread, Thou who didst bless the five loaves in the desert, that Thy handmaid partaking thereof may obtain health both of soul and body, in the name of the Father, &c.”

He then sprinkles the bread with holy water, and restores it to the woman, placing his stole (or scarf) on her head, and saying,

“ The Lord be with you.”

A. "And with thy spirit."

He then reads a part of the 2nd chapter of Luke, v. 22—32.

"Praise be to Thee, O Christ."

A. "We invoke Thee, we adore Thee, we praise Thee, O blessed and glorious Trinity."

"Blessed be the name, &c."

A. "From this time," &c.

"Let us pray :

"O God, who through the delivery of the blessed Virgin Mary didst change the judicial sorrows of those who bring forth into joy, graciously look down upon this Thine handmaid, that she who this day hath entered into Thy holy temple with thanksgivings, may, by the intercession of the same Virgin, be accounted worthy to attain, together with her offspring,* the joys of eternal blessedness, through Christ our Lord. Amen."

"The blessing of God Almighty, the Father,

* If the child be dead, these words are omitted.

the Son, and the Holy Spirit, descend upon thee, and abide with thee always. Amen."

Then he presents his stole to the woman, who kisses it. And, as she rises to depart, he cautions her, if it seem fitting so to do, not to let her infant sleep in the same bed with her; for fear it should be overlaid.

A labourer's funeral may cost from eight shillings and sixpence to ten shillings.

The Church-vestry supplies the pall, *drap mortuaire*, gratuitously: and the extremely poor are interred without any Church fee for the funeral service.

The friend of this ex-churchwarden was speaking of the long illness of one of his family. I took occasion to ask a few questions respecting the cost of medical attendance. He said, that the expense was mainly regulated by the circumstances of the rank, condition, and pecuniary abilities of the patient and family. A tradesman or farmer might, for instance, send to fetch the

médecin (the “general practitioner” we may say) of his village. He would come, and, at his departure, would expect the minimum fee of Ten-pence !

If sent for at night, he would expect two shillings and sixpence ; and from a party well enabled to afford it, five shillings.

These medical officers charge more for the drugs sent in than for their personal attendance. He told me he had occasionally paid two pounds ten shillings, and even ten pounds to the doctor in one year. In these cases the account is generally delivered in the form now prevalent in England : “ For medicine and attendance, between—and—1847.

Before we parted I enquired whether any ecclesiastical dignitary, corresponding with our Archdeacon, visited the parishes. His reply was, “ There is a personage, generally a canon, who is called *Chef du Canton*, and who makes periodical visits to inspect the fabric of the Church, and to receive any *réclamations* (any *presentments*) the Churchwardens, president, or treasurer may wish to make respecting the affairs of the

Church. All grave matters are carried up to the Bishop's Court of Diocese."

My stay in the country was too brief to admit of my instituting wider enquiry into the discipline, resources, or general well-being of the Church and Clergy. The *surveillance* of the bishops is evidently active and zealous; the closest possible acquaintance being maintained with all the characters and circumstances of the subordinates; and every provision made for preserving in unity of purpose, in the bond of peace, and most friendly intercommunications, the whole body of ecclesiastical *force*, if I may so express myself, to whom is intrusted the conservation and *propagandism* of the faith and religion of their Church. How large an amount of their zeal and success is imputable to a conscientious sense of their obligations under the ordination vow may be reasonably inferred from reference to the standard of pecuniary remuneration fixed by the State, which in but very few instances awards a higher salary than two thousand four hundred francs (100*l.*) per annum, to any incumbent. Whatever emolument is attainable beyond this

dole must accrue from fees on marriages, baptisms, funerals, monuments, and private masses at the instance of families or single individuals. The curates derive maintenance from occasional subsidies and donations contributed by the families over whom they exercise spiritual influence; much of which *entretien* or substantial bounty is given in kind, as a supplement to the communal stipend awarded by law; and I suppose that a curate in a populous commune in France is the only personage now in existence realizing the minister who, we are informed, was

“—passing rich with forty pounds a year.”

Taking them for all in all, I cannot but speak well of these worthies, the Romish clergy in France. Indeed, I never omitted a favourable opportunity of conversing with them in any country, whether they were cardinals in Rome, priors in a Tuscan convent, or priests in a Swiss parish-church; but be their position what it might, let the subject be gay or grave, lively or severe, the amenity of their manner, the quiet, constrained, and deferential deportment, the tempered tone and courteous style of their argument, was un-

deviatingly sure of conciliating good-will; the more undesirable, in several instances, perhaps, inasmuch as in Christian advocacy of truth it was painful to use strong *heretical* language, and to maintain a hostile attitude, while they, on their part, were pleading for the excellency of their principles "more in sorrow than in anger;" and deprecating harsh judgment by the meekness with which they seemed desirous of instructing more fully in the lessons of their very questionable creed one who so staunchly rejected it.

The reader will, of course, infer that I have never encountered in France the demoniacal malignity of a Dermott, the vulgar brutality of a Laffan, or the polemical fury and fustian of John of Tuam. The ecclesiastics of France seem to bear their faculties more meekly; they require no rescript or rebuke from the Vatican; and the recollection of those evil days, on which their order fell, may be said to have chastened rather than embittered the zeal of the brethren who,

"Post varios casus et tot discrimina rerum ;"

after the hurricanes and storms of so many and such revolutions, are only too thankful to that

overruling Providence that has left a Church standing in the land. Chance, as much as choice, has thrown me frequently, within thirty years, among the Romish Clergy in various parts of Christendom; and on the safe compact of agreeing to differ, we have had occasionally long and loud arguments on points of faith. I consider that our opponents are doomed to fight with the sun in their faces. Scriptural truth shines upon them in full blaze only to subject them to defeat, because they persist in taking up a wrong position. "Their eyes are blinded that they see not." "The things that should have been for their wealth, are unto them an occasion of falling." * Their invocation of the Virgin Mary, and of other saints, their notions on Transubstantiation, on Purgatory, on Indulgences, Dispensations, Auricular Confession, and Penance; their Latin services and unsocial worship (a ritual hardly intelligible to the most learned and acute observer), the restriction of their Clergy to celibacy, and the whole error of monastic seclusion; form an accumulated mass of misconception, mistake and mis-

* Psalm lxxix. 23, 24.

chief which the enlightened children of the Reformation "cannot away with." The great miracle of the days that now are consists in the conversions to belief in such tenets amid the knowledge and civilization which pervades the educated districts of the world. A "wonderful and a horrible thing is committed in the land," that deceived hearts should have turned so many aside, and incapacitated them, while grasping the mass-book, from saying "Is there not a lie in my right hand?"

Long residence on the Seven Hills may give a Protestant this privilege of speech. I argue not uncharitably, nor, considering what we have lived to see and hear at home, unseasonably; but the self-delusion of our modern apostates is unparalleled in the history of religion. Let me remind them, that a faithful son of the Reformed Church is "a strong man armed:" his lightest application of the Word of God to the specious theories of Popery is like the touch of Ithuriel's spear; the fallacy starts up, the perversion shrinks from scrutiny—

—"for no falsehood can endure
Touch of celestial temper:"

and, if the battle of argument be renewed, it is little else than the skirmishing of casuistry with powers clad in all the panoply of truth. The Romanist brings learning into the contest, but only to wield the erudition of one-sided investigators ; he appeals, also, to Truth ; but, when we challenge him to test the questionable points of his creed by the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, he flinches from such assay, and shifts his ground ; as though discretion were the better part of such a disputant's valour. Such, mainly, were the particulars of the drawn battles into which mere contingencies have often led me *cis et trans Alpes*. In those regions the Church of England expects that every man will do his duty ; and I was generally content to appeal to every right-minded Christian scholar among the Romish Clergy as St. Paul challenged Agrippa—"Believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest." Then did I wonder at their inconsistency ; then was I grieved in heart at their obduracy in error.

When some of the fraternity expatiated on the secular advantages, temporal influence, indepen-

dent position, and domestic happiness of our ecclesiastics, the opportunity arose for my wishing, even beyond the Apostle's desire, that they were altogether as I was, *bonds* and all; for the sacrament, as they term it, of *marriage*, would infinitely exalt and serve to sanctify anew their Order. It might not, indeed, in any one instance, lead to the abjuration of their grosser fallacies; or unsettle the principles of their ancient faith; but the social ties of virtuous domestic life, and the expansion of thought and feeling derivable from free intercourse with those families of fathers, matrons and children, to whose hearths the ascetic bachelor in a cassock is but too generally a stranger, would do much, very much towards the purification of their morals, and the improvement of their practice. Their presence would in many a place, and at many a time, operate to the suppression of evil, and "shew a more excellent way." Yes,—they might shew forth by their cheerful piety, in the character of husbands and fathers, that the light heart, the cheerful countenance, the interchange of life's *innocent* pleasures, and the

cultivation of art and science, are not incompatible with religion most pure and undefiled; they might teach men, on a higher ground than they have yet occupied, how to use the world without abusing it; which is no mean degree of practical philosophy, and affords an example that preaches more forcibly than a hundred sermons from the pulpit of a monitor, who shares neither the layman's perils nor sympathies. "Have we not power to lead about a wife, as well as other Apostles?"* ought to be the thesis propounded to every Presbyter of the Romish Church. Let the brotherhood deal fairly by it, and they will begin to comprehend with all the saints, with all the holy married men who have lived and died since the martyrdom of their beloved Peter (whose wife their own legendary chroniclers assert to have accompanied him to his cross), how much of private worth and public influence is neutralized, annulled and annihilated by an enactment of human assumption, which, in the middle of the nineteenth century, has received its *coup de grace* in the Dissertation on Jesuits,

* 1 Corinth. ix. 5.

Priests, Women, and Families, from the pen of Michelet.

It had been well for the Brotherhood of Loyola, if that work had never seen the light; if the "Fathers" had so lived, moved, and had their being among men, as to have demonstrated the impossibility of its allegations being consistent with truth or probability; and to have rendered its bitter sarcasms innoxious, and its satire pointless. But I must away to the valleys and farms, and feel it is high time to get rid of the *Chapter*; take it in whichever sense of the equivocal word my readers may.

CHAPTER III.

I HAVE already stated, that upon application to the secretary of the British Agricultural Association, I failed to hear of any one of the members resident at the time in London, who was acquainted with either owners or occupiers of land across the straits. It was not matter of astonishment. From all that had fallen under my notice through a considerable period of time preceding the date of my inquiries in June 1847, it appeared that few, very few corresponding members of our Agricultural Societies enjoyed the advantage of personal knowledge of either the farms or the farmers of France; and the visits of the natives of that country to the broad acres and homesteads of ours, have ever been "few and far between." The present period, however, which, without exaggera-

tion, may be termed a crisis in the annals of agriculture, seemed to invite inquiry into the actual state of farming in that district of France which lies most convenient for brief and hasty inspection; especially on the approach of the finest harvest within the memory of man. The motives to exertion on the part of every grower of corn throughout the world must now be enhanced to a degree of energy hitherto unfelt; and the knowledge to direct that exertion is become more essential than at any previous date in the annals of commercial speculation or political economy. Hence my desire to take personal observation of a class of individuals engaged in so important a branch of industry, — occupied with all the vigilance which private interest can excite in studying their profession, with a view to save expense, and increase produce. To see even two or three out of the mass of minds, such as are ever working in France, thus intently and laudably employed, was no secondary object in my plan; and the men and things that were brought under notice in carrying it out have not disappointed expectation.

There are, of course, many landholders and owners in France highly gifted in mental resources, and, in some cases, (but very few,) possessed of ample pecuniary means, for cultivating the soil on the soundest principles of husbandry ; but the *parcellement* system paralyses these combined powers. One hundred and twenty-four millions of these allotments being, by the law of inheritance, distributed (*parcellés*) among five millions five hundred thousand proprietors ; and the number of productive acres in France not exceeding one hundred and fourteen millions. Where agricultural enterprise is thus discouraged by limitations, confining the scene of exertion within such a diminutive range, and precluding, as it were, any wide breadth of tillage in the hands of one owner, it is in vain that one would look for experiments on a scale calculated to call forth the inherent excellences of the land, or expect to find in activity those systems which, under more genial legislature, larger investments, and an infinitely more extensive field of operations, have multiplied the produce almost a hundred-fold within the last sixty years in our own

country. Still, a passing glance at the corn-fields and farm-yards of France on the approach of the summer of 1847, was included in my little plan :—

“Hoc erat in votis—”

and the agitated question of Free-trade and Repeal of Duty had sharpened the desire of peeping into the barns, and walking alongside the ploughs of our near neighbours. Our rural economy, not to say our domestic prosperity, might or might not be affected by the enactment at which so many British yeomen had begun to shake their heads. Our accustomed relations with the rest of the world might undergo alteration more extensive than favourable, and

“suffer a sea-change,”

which would take many a good tall ship and *argosy* off the waters; for many and mournful were the bodings I had heard within the twelve months previous to this brief excursion. “*Satis constabat*,” (as Livy’s phrase would express it,) ample evidence, it was said, was there to show, that Sir Robert had left us to the tender mercies

of the Belgian and Norman farmers,—“men who paid *no taxes, no rates, no rentcharge*; and whose labourers worked at half the amount of *British wages*! and could always raise produce at cent. per cent. advantage over us!”

“Then all at once did from all earth arise
Fierce imprecations *on that man of sin*;
And all the loaded winds came heavy in,
With exultations and with agonies.”

MILMAN'S *Judicium Regale*.

In the midst of which dismal concord of groans and grumbling, I longed to see the elements of our menaced ruin; believing in a common sense view of the matter, that time would be judiciously employed, which might be devoted for never so brief a space to the attainment of a few right notions on so momentous a subject; both that an English proprietor might more fairly estimate his own and his countrymen's condition, by instituting a comparison; and also be enabled to judge what we have yet to fear from the rivalry, or to hope from the example, of our nearest and most ingenious neighbours. Such of my farming friends who may feel disposed to be critical, must keep in mind, that I penned

these notes, not "to set them all right," but to rectify my *own* notions.

Commerce is, at present, reduced, as in its infancy, to experiments and trials; and must, doubtless, for a time, grope about, as in the dark, for new channels and for untried markets. The conclusion, however, at which I arrived, as far as my own individual hopes and fears were concerned, was comfortable enough. The ratio of agricultural produce, on the common average farms in France, indicates an excess in favour of our country, of upwards of thirty per cent. I mean that this is the ratio, not of value, but of absolute quantity. It was conspicuously evident, wherever my investigations led me, that the art of cultivation is altogether considerably less understood than it is in our country; even among the least enlightened English growers. It is but liberal to add, that; in all probability, the French farmer would have attained to better understanding of his profession; had he been encouraged and fortified by better laws on his behalf. But the class of cultivators is *taxed above all other* in France; and nothing

can be more disheartening than for a man thus amerced, to find himself called upon to expend the bulk of his pecuniary resources on property which he can neither bequeath nor apportion according to his own wishes. The law of inheritance discourages owner and occupier alike. When the owner of real or personal estate dies, all his property must be distributed in equal portions amongst his children or next of kin ; with exception of one share. Thus, if he have one child, he may leave one half to any one else, even a stranger ; if he leave two, he may alienate a third part ; if three, a fourth of his possessions. And he must not by any deed of gift, during his life-time, evade the operation of this law. This enactment, when applied to landed property, tends to cripple it, and to fritter away an originally good estate into paltry subdivisions, which neutralize all such systems as avail, in our country, to improve soils, and enlarge the sphere of good husbandry.

The tenant feels the disadvantage in this way. He may be holding a farm of two hundred acres under A. B., who dies in the last year, we will

say, of his lease, leaving five children. The estate is, at once, liable to division into as many farms ;— and he has no guarantee that those farms will be henceforth occupied by himself.

One child may wish to accommodate a friend with forty acres ; another may be disposed to enter on the property and farm *his* forty acres in person ; and so on. Under these circumstances it is not to be expected that tenants will invest largely (had they the means) in the land they occupy on such a precarious tenure. Their outlay is more likely to be on the principle, “ Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof ; ” and thus while they exercise all the powers of inventiveness in doing the best they can with slender means and vexatious uncertainties, the exercise of the principle of “ high farming ” is virtually forbidden by the interference of the legislature ; and there is but too great hazard of the land being “ run out.”

The fertility of certain districts in France, is equal to that of some of the finest soils in our country ; but this very gift of Providence is, in but too many instances, an obstacle to the grower’s

prosperity. In the absence of any knowledge of chemical agencies, the *ordinary* class of farmers devise no laborious methods for improving poor land. The equableness of the climate spares them the trouble of providing against the inclemency of the weather, or the uncertainty of the seasons ; and the demands on Energy are proportionately slight.

The majority of these individuals are men of very limited means ; and they rest with too easy confidence on the bounty of nature, which prepares for them so many advantages, the attainment of which in our variable climate would only be practicable through the most careful thought, unwearied patience, and provident reservations. Thus the yearly harvest off the one hundred and fourteen millions of acres in France owes far greater advantages to natural luxuriance than to the expenditure and exertions of the cultivators.

“O fortunati nimium ! Sua si bona nôrint !”

O far too favour'd children of the land !

Did they but know the means at their command !

Such, I may frankly say, was my foregone conclusion previous to my complimentary visit

to Mons. Paganel, Directeur de l'Agriculture in the Government office of the Board of Trade. The polished courtesy of the Parisian ministers and counsellors of state is too well known and appreciated by "travelled men" to require any lengthy mention of the reception I had the honour to experience in the Rue de Varennes. The presentation of my card and a note requesting the interview, elicited a prompt and flattering reply, inviting a visit on the following day, at which the highly gifted and very amiable personage just mentioned at once offered me commendatory letters of introduction to all the Agricultural boards and presidencies in the kingdom ; with facilities, to any extent, for pursuing personal enquiries and instituting whatever investigations my *plan de route* or arrangement of time might enable me to name. Few words sufficed to explain how very limited must necessarily be the range of my humble inspection, which was purely *en amateur*, and contemplated little beyond the *modicum* of authentic information on a highly interesting subject, which a gentleman and a scholar in a foreign land might be sup-

posed eager to obtain at a crisis when more than ordinary curiosity prevailed in home-quarters on the subject of foreign farming. Monsieur Paganel, prolonging the audience by a variety of questions, raised on view of a small pocket-book full of memoranda on our English system of husbandry, and of penned sketches of our best machines, which appeared to afford him the liveliest pleasure, expressed his regret at the brief duration of my visit to France, in which so wide and interesting a field of scientific enquiry lay open to travellers who would condescend to study the processes in vogue among the departments where agriculture was a paramount consideration. He regretted the total absence of English visitors at the Bureau d'Agriculture. I was the first he had seen ; " But," said he, " here is one of your Durhams !" and he pointed out to us a framed engraving (coloured) of one of the prize oxen exhibited at some agricultural meeting in England (I forget where-about), the characteristic features and points of which animal he seemed pleased to discuss ; and then showed my son a spirited portrait of one

of Prince Albert's horses. Then turning to a vase (apparently of agate) which stood on the mantel-piece, he placed it in my hands, and, observing my astonishment at its lightness, he added, "This is a very wonderful production. It was brought to me a few days since by an ingenious artisan in wood-turning, who has succeeded in propelling liquid dyes through the pores of wood, and has thus converted a block of white deal into a substance exhibiting all the streaks, veins, and graduated tints of a valuable agate stone." The vase was, indeed, of beautiful appearance. It shone with French polish (as indeed, I might add the owner of the gift did), and would have been mistaken by any one for an onyx, or even for an Oriental alabaster vessel. I observed to Monsieur Paganel that his marvellous vase reminded me of a certain process applied in Old England to our redoubtable round of beef, which, by virtue of hydraulic pressure, could now be salted in the course of an hour or two; the pickle penetrating a bulk of forty or fifty pounds of flesh through every pore; so that, said I, "Your fat 'Durham' there might

be got ready for sea-junk in less time, perhaps, than would be required to get up a ship's anchor."

Our pleasant discourse terminated by his summoning the chief secretary, and requesting that a list might be prepared of the names of such *grandes exploitations* (farms of a certain magnitude) in Normandy as might prove most worthy of examination in the "scamper" I was about to take through Rouen into Dieppe, and so into Picardy.

"On your return from Tours," said the minister, "where I beseech you to visit Mettray, you will find letters from me at your hotel, which will prove most ample credentials in whatever part of Normandy you may be disposed to visit; but, mind you look well into our colony at Mettray. The government lays great stress thereon. We have good hope of that institution as a source of incalculable good to France in the administration of her laws in the criminal department of legislature."

My readers are already acquainted with the substance of such information as I had leisure to accumulate with respect to the said establish-

ment; an interesting note to which will be found in the Appendix at the end of this volume; I shall therefore proceed at once to the beautiful valley of Barentin, at about nine miles distance from Rouen. There is a station at the head of this valley, which is crossed by a viaduct of vast dimensions, worthy of the old Roman aqueducts. It curves considerably as it crosses the valley. About one year and nine months ago the newly-built structure gave way; the foundations at one extremity having subsided, the whole series of arches gradually collapsed, and, in a few minutes, the colossal bridge was a heap of tens of millions of bricks. It was soon restored, however, and at present constitutes a grand feature on the Rouen and Dieppe railway, along which I journeyed with an intelligent friend of the President of the Agricultural Board of the Department of the Lower Seine, who, on receipt of Mons. Paganel's letter of introduction, evinced the most earnest desire to place at my disposal ample means of accomplishing all I contemplated in this district; and, after lavishing attentions of the most flat-

tering character, and proposing to introduce me on the very day of our arrival to a meeting of scientific members of the Société Centrale d'Agriculture, wrote letters to some of the most active of that body, requesting their personal good offices in facilitating the inspection I was desirous of beginning on the following morning. Nothing could exceed the ardour with which this amiable and profoundly-learned philosopher, Mons. J. Girardin, the Humphrey Davy of Normandy, exerted himself to do honour to what he was pleased to designate an English gentleman of such an enterprising disposition, and evincing such a correct taste as to see with his own eyes what the French plough was doing, and all that the French agriculturist was trying to perfectionate.

My new acquaintance was a correspondent of the Institute, and of the Royal Societies of Florence, Turin, Moscow, Liége, Brussels, Antwerp, Bayaria, &c., and had published some of the most valuable treatises on chemical affinities that have yet thrown light on science, in the kingdom of France. He has the physiognomy of Newton, with the eyes of Lyndhurst. I think I

never gazed on a brighter light of high intellect. One would say he looked "quite through the deeds of men," as well as into the deep recesses of alchemy, and the vivacity of his address was electrical; it summoned to action all the powers of whatever mind might seek to enjoy intercourse with his own, and illustrated, with mighty force, the Baconian aphorism—"knowledge is power." We interchanged long converse at two or three interviews; and our mutually good understanding was cemented by his transmission to my hôtel of upwards of fifty works from his literary cabinet; and by my purchase of a huge trunk to convey the precious gifts to England, where they have since delighted me in many an "*hora succisiva*," snatched from the less intellectual occupations of every-day life. On the last occasion of my seeing Girardin, he told me he had that morning had a tooth extracted while he was placed under the influence of ether. He had not felt the slightest pain, though perfectly aware of the duration of the process of extraction, and of the presence of the operator. He complained of dizziness resulting from the inspiration of the subtle

vapour, and looked ill; but these symptoms passed off.

A corresponding member of the Academie des Sciences, in Rouen, met me at Mons. Girardin's next day at breakfast-time, and we soon afterwards started for Château des Vieux, the residence of Mons. Auguste Beaudouin, in the Commune of St. Paër, in the Vale of Barentin (arrondissement de Rouen). Mons. Beaudouin (which, by-the-bye, is the name from which our English "Baldwin" is derived,) was unfortunately in Paris. I shall best describe his position in the district by designating him one of the Cotton Lords of France. The mills and factories in the contiguity of his beautiful seat (the home-farm of which I went to visit,) constitute very remarkable features in the valley; these buildings being erected in imitation, as it were, of handsome villas or *châteaux*, and divested, by means of ingeniously raised plantations of lofty trees, of the gawky chimney which in many such localities—

—"like a tall bully lifts the head,"

and seems to publish, at every puff of smoke, the unromantic fact "here about lives a calico-

worker !” Mons. Fauchet, my companion for the excursion, entered with me upon the farming premises at about half-past eleven in the forenoon of Friday the ninth of July, and remained in the place till a quarter to eight in the evening. Let me proceed to detail the facts that fell under my observation, and the statements made by my French farming companion with reference to the management of the land and stock.

One of the primary considerations under notice was what the French term the *assolement* :—the art of making crops alternate in the same *sol* (soil or land) in such a manner as to raise continually the largest amount of produce at the least possible expense. In other words, this is what we term the course of shifts, or tilths, and involves the question of fallows. Hereupon arose a little conversation on the several kinds of crop raised on a tolerably good tract of land. There were the *récoltes épuisantes* and the *récoltes améliorantes* ; i. e. crops that tended to exhaust, and those that served to improve the soil. The former include flax, white mustard, spring coleseed, madder, spring rape, winter coleseed, winter

rape, poppy, hemp, wheat, barley, rye, oats, buckwheat, potatoes, woad, luzerne, haricot beans, *trifolium incarnatum*, carrots, beet-roots, (including mangel,) drumhead cabbages, radishes, turnips, green and grey pease, and round beans.

The latter,—sainfoin, red clover (cut for green meat), tares, peas gathered fresh, white clover, &c.

In reference to the properties of these crops, the French farmer classes the various sorts of produce under five categories :—1.—Those which are effective in fallowing. 2.—Those which tend to exhaust the soil. 3.—Those which ameliorate it. 4.—Those, that foul the land. 5.—Those that help to clean it.

Now the district in which my visit was paid lay in the department of the Lower Seine ; the soil of which is composed of six different varieties 1.—Sandy or silty tracts of land. 2.—Parts comprising two parts of sand and one of clay. 3.—Sheer clay. 4.—Parts comprising genuine good loam,* or the best of all combinations of clay and sand. 5.—Chalky earth. 6.—Clay with a substratum of chalk. The first of

* Of which I brought over a large sample.

these is well adapted for the production of forty-seven kinds and varieties of produce, comprehending wheat, barley, rye, potatoes, beetroot, carrots, turnips, oats, tares, rape, clover, chicory, and *trifolium incarnatum*, madder, &c.

The second admits the same, with eight additional varieties, including flax, hemp, buckwheat, &c.

The third is calculated for thirty-two varieties, wheat, oats, potatoes, beetroot, carrots, coleseed, cow-cabbage, small beans, &c.

The fourth, which is the best, comprehends fifty-three varieties; and, indeed, seems well suited for the growth of every description of produce,—but is chiefly excellent for crops of wheat, rye, barley, oats, and beans, all the clovers, potatoes, peas, flax, and hemp.

The fifth comprises twenty-nine varieties,—beginning with wheat, rye, barley, and buckwheat; potatoes, beetroot, radishes, white carrots, turnips, and chicory.

The sixth admits forty-seven kinds; at the head of which stand wheat, rye, barley, and buckwheat: next in order, potatoes, beets, carrots, clover, coleseed, rape, &c.

The Frenchman duly appreciates the worth of the *sablo-argileux* or sandy-clayed soil. More may be raised on it ; but the two part clay, and one of sand, a rich and loamy bed, is that on which almost as many varieties *thrive*. “ But even this,” said my companion, “ depends on the care with which the *assolement* is made.”

My agricultural readers will probably feel interested in perusing the following memorandum which exhibits the system of tilth according to the properties of the soil. The best judges in Normandy incline to the four year tilth : I should say, because they have yet to learn better from us ; but though the agricultural committees have very widely recommended it, much difficulty has accompanied the adoption of their counsel, owing to so many *baux* (leases) having been drawn for nine years.

ASSOLEMENT.

The two year tilth is mere cottage garden cultivation :—

Potatoes alternating with rye.

The three year tilth on loamy soil runs thus :

Potatoes (manured).

Barley

Trefoil or Lupuline (our red clover).

THE FOUR YEAR TILTH.

Beet (dunged).

Oats.

Clover.

Wheat.

THE FIVE YEAR TILTH.

Beet (dunged).

Oats.

Clover.

Wheat.

Peas.

THE SIX YEAR TILTH.

Coleseed (twice ploughed
and dunged).

Wheat.

Beans (twice ploughed
and dunged).

Oats.

Clover.

Wheat.

THE SEVEN YEAR TILTH.

Beet (dunged).

Oats.

Clover.

Wheat.

Coleseed (dunged and
ploughed).

Tares (with sheep).

Wheat.

It is impossible to peruse these records of Norman tillage without regret that so great expense should be incurred by superfluous fallows, on a soil which would make the kindliest returns under our system of management.

In point of fact, the arable land is for the most part distributed into as many divisions as the alternation of crop comprises years. For instance, in the four year alternation, *i.e.* in the system of tilth, by which plants of the same species, or, at least, of the same family, are only to re-appear on the same field every fourth year, the land under the plough is portioned out every year into four divisions :—

I.	II.	III.	IV.
Plants.	Oats.	Clover.	Wheat.
admissible as fallow.			

Now each of these may itself be subdivided into several parts which bear crops of similar kind, though not exactly identical. For instance, in the four-yearly tilth, the compartment set aside for oats, may be cropped not only with oats, but also with barley. And the allotment destined for plants constituting a fallow, may carry at the same time potatoes, mangel-wurzel, carrots, &c. And so, likewise, the clover section may be shared by peas, beans, vetches, &c. The general rule being, that about one-half of the fields under tillage are reserved for crops well

calculated for feeding stock; and this may be understood by glancing at a little farm of forty acres of arable land cultivated on the four year tilth. It seems to be an expensive plan, considering the feeding. If, on light, poor soils, men have courage to persevere in the system, it may requite their pains.

Beet.	}	Here is the disposition of twenty acres bearing corn crops, and twenty yielding produce suitable for the feeding of stock.
Potato.		
Carrot.		
Turnip.		
Oats.	}	
Barley.		
Clover.	}	
Peas.		
Tares.		
Wheat.	}	
Rye.		

According to these arrangements, as the fifth year approaches, the same crops re-appear for the second time on the same spot of ground, and begin the rotation anew. It is considered that a just proportion is hereby maintained between the extent of culture of plant needful for the feeding of stock, and the breadth of ground which requires manuring; in other words, the

production of fertilizing matter appears to be in exact relation to the needs of the soil. The minute calculations into which our ingenious rivals carry this subject would be tedious matter for my general readers ; though the demands made by their theory on the *gros bétail* (large cattle), with respect to cart-loads, nay, many wagon-loads, of the unsavoury “needful” for the clods of the valley, might well provoke a smile.

One of these experimentalists, whose repute is pre-eminent as the most correct calculator on the subject under notice, I mean Mons. Morel de Vindé, has laid it down as a maxim that every acre of land should be manured at the rate of 156 bushels yearly ; such bushels of dung to contain 66 pounds.

He considers that a bullock ought to produce yearly twenty-three tons’ weight of such manure ; nine of which quantity would be actual deposit, at the rate of half-a-hundred weight *per diem*, and fourteen composed of litter subjected to the action of such deposit. His theory assigns the number of twelve sheep as an equivalent to one bullock.

Having premised this, he selects an allotment of five English acres with a view to demonstrating that this one bullock ought to supply manure for that extent of land:—

The straw of wheat of these five acres ought to be calculated as weighing, in an average harvest, sixty-six bushels of sixty-six pounds each.*

The straw of oats, fifty-four bushels.

The dry forage and after-grass, one hundred and eight bushels.

The roots for feeding, five hundred and thirty bushels.

Mons. Morel computes that the produce consumed annually by each head of large stock (bullocks), or by the twelve sheep above-mentioned, should be stated as follows:—

They consume of chopped wheat-straw sixty-six bushels; of oaten straw, similarly chopped, fifty-four bushels: of dry forage, or its equiva-

* M. Morel gives his estimates in French kilogrammes (1980k.=4331lbs.), but I present this calculation to the reader in English bushels. I have carefully observed the weight of a standard bushel heaped with London dung from the barge. The measure itself weighed $11\frac{3}{4}$ pounds, the dung $66\frac{1}{4}$ pounds.

lent in "green meat," one hundred and eight bushels.

Hence, he affirms, the produce of these five acres is sufficient for the support of one bullock ; and, consequently, the proportions tally to a degree of nicest exactitude ; a close relation being observable between the production of those substances which are required as aliment for the stock, and the number of heads of cattle which it is necessary to keep for the production of manure.

Du Breuil, of whom such distinguishing mention was made to me while I was in Rouen, as a first-rate authority on these points, did not assent fully to the principle here asserted. He considered that a judicious use of hay would enable the farmer to keep *two* bullocks ; especially if the yield of straw was as copious as the figures above quoted would indicate. Moreover, on many farms the bullocks were *housed* for a considerable period, and dry earth brought in from time to time, and strewed under the animals ; which earth was co-

vered in turn by straw, so as to form, in a short space of time, a very efficient compost. Morel maintained, nevertheless, that this treatment of the soil would bear the test of the nicest scrutiny; as being warranted by the most accurate theories of compensation to which farming is reducible.

I leave these problems to be solved by such *experimentalizing* agriculturists as may chance to handle my book; but I doubt their alacrity to enter into arithmetical computations on the aliquot parts of the litter in their farm-yards. The British cultivator's talk is of bullocks, when the keeping of them will pay; but his reckonings run with reference to wagons and tumbrels, many of which are filled from barges that bring manure from large towns; and it is not unusual with monied men to disburse at the rate of twenty shillings per acre all round, in the purchase of dung.

I believe that in England a ton of straw may be made to yield three times that weight in manure; but the relative weight of straw, in a bushel of wheat, for instance, cannot but fluctuate.

On the 13th of November, 1847, I induced a neighbour to subject this matter to the test of an accurate weighing-machine. A bushel measure of white wheaten grain was duly threshed forth, and, after the strike, weighed (without the wooden vessel in which it was held,) exactly sixty pounds. The straw from which this quantity of grain was procured, weighed ninety-two pounds, or half as much again. Now if this calculation be applied to the case of the five acres mentioned by Mons. Morel, and we assign one fourth of that tract of land to a wheat-crop, *i. e.* five roods, we reach a return of five quarters and an half of wheaten grain from an acre and a quarter ; which under no circumstances would be attainable in France. Mons. Morel's reckoning must evidently assign one entire half of the five acres to wheat ; and even *that* constitutes the highest " yield " of good land in France, which, one year with another, seldom exceeds two quarters, four bushels, and three pecks. One year with another throughout Normandy exhibits not a higher return than two quarters per acre ; and even then, the grain is not so heavy as ours, perhaps not by twelve pounds in

the bushel. So that the straw may be conceived to be in excess ; and, indeed, I thought so when at Barentin, from which I brought away two stems, (now in my library) of the height of seven feet two inches. My Norman correspondent, however, wrote me word, subsequently, that the thirty acre field, from which I drew the said gigantic straws, had yielded in the harvest season four quarters all round.

The seed had been procured from Scotland. I had never seen, not even in Flanders, such tall standing wheat ; and when I suggested that the bailiff had, in all probability, dispersed the manure pretty freely on this particular spot, in compliment to his Scotch seed, my companion and informant asked if I had noticed the vast heap of compost which was raised near the farm-yard tank containing the *engrais Jauffret*, of which I shall speak in due order.

“ Well,” said he, “ we have manured every field of arable land on the estate within the year, and you see what a quantity still remains.” In fact, the opportunities which were at this time afforded me of investigating the system of manuring

generally adopted in the Norman farms served to convince me that the Frenchman makes more of his compost than we do of ours. He converts even the smallest accumulation of fertilizing matter to the utmost possible account of good by diligently guarding it from deterioration. He protects the precious ingredients of "amendment" from the winds, the sun, the moon, and watery star. Neither desiccation nor evaporation is suffered to do its injurious work on the mixen. He shuts up the *engrais* in tanks and wells: bottles it into butts and barrels,—he strengthens it in reservoirs, and, like good wine, it improves by age. When it is cast on the clods of the valley it does its work nobly, and, let me add, cheaply too. So much, for the present, for "mending the land."

I was saying, that the *assolement* or course of cropping involved the question of fallows. The term for 'fallow' in French is *jachère*; which is derived probably, from the Latin word *jacere*, to lie (*se reposer*, to rest awhile). The agricultural doctors, nevertheless, are far from being unanimous in their opinions on the needfulness

of fallow. They evidently disagree. While some maintain, according to the old fashioned theory, that the land should be left *at rest*, to prevent its bearing continually a corn crop (called by the French *Céréale*) and to afford time and means for such handling of the soil as may protect it from being usurped, as it were, by the abundance of weeds resulting from two successive crops of corn (the white crop being considered as fouling the land); others hold that it is altogether an error to imagine that the land has any need of repose; that nature has destined it for the continual nourishment of plants; as is evidenced on tracts of soil left uncultivated; that the barren state of land which is left untouched results not from its being worn out, but is owing, in one respect, to this circumstance, that the fertilizing matter drawn from it by the crops is greater in quantity than that which is imparted; and, in another respect, that, forasmuch as white crops are generally the only plant which fields regularly fallowed are called upon to bear, the ordinary consequence ensues, which is observable wherever the same produce is demanded from one

and the same spot of soil, namely, an exhaustion of the vegetative power. In discussion of these points it was stated, and, I think, with sound reasoning, that a state of inactivity is apparently abhorred by land of every description ; that fields left untouched by tillage are invariably overrun with some sorts of plants ; and that if inspection be made, it will appear that the first sorts are superseded, little by little, by fresh varieties, which, after a certain interval, are in turn succeeded by some other ; which phænomenon serves to indicate, indeed, that it is the nature of the soil to throw off and lose considerable portions of strength, in respect of its productive faculties ; but that it never lies spontaneously in a state of quiescence, inasmuch as it is never divested of the properties of vegetation.

I enquired of M. Fauchet whether he could briefly state the method he adopted on his farm of Beau Repaire, with respect to fallow. Here is his answer. “Directly I have carried the white crop off the fields I propose to fallow, I begin to prepare the land for the sowing, which is to be completed in the next autumn, and I proceed

to my first ploughing, following this up with a harrowing. I consider that this tends to destroy such plants as injure the soil through the special vitality existing in their roots ; inasmuch as my plough turns them up to the surface of the field, and to the scorching rays of an August sun. This process also sends down and buries the seeds of such weeds as showed themselves in my corn at harvest. Before winter I plough again ; and this operation brings up the seeds near to the surface, and leaves them in a state favourable for germination ; besides which, it lays the soil open to the fertilizing influences of frost. In the spring following, the land is ploughed a third time ; and this destroys the young plants which have begun to show themselves above ground, and makes those seeds shoot which hitherto had lain too deep to do so ; and the plants growing up from such germination are effectually exterminated by a fourth ploughing which I give in the course of the summer." Several of his neighbours adopted a different principle ; one indeed, which in the Pays de Caux prevails almost universally. This is to crop with what

they call *plantes fourragères legumineuses*, plants serving for forage ; and esculent vegetables, such as various clovers, peas, vetches, &c. Many are resolute in the opinion that these forage crops, cut green, are capable of imparting to the soil, through the agency of their roots, left in the ground, a larger amount of nutritive principle than would have been communicated by such adventitious growth as might have been developed while the field lay absolutely at rest. Those who adopt this plan are in almost all cases farming on the three year tilth. They spoke of the fallow system as a vicious expedient forced on husbandmen in the infancy of agriculture, as the only alternative within choice while science hardly ever entered into their calculations. In those days the categories of production were limited to an exceedingly narrow range, and the *plante salissante* was in excess ; *i. e.* the produce to which they mainly gave their attention was of that description which fouled the land continually, and thus compelled them to leave several fields, after a certain period, intact. The discoveries of modern times seem to suggest the middle course,

already described. On the principle, moreover, that the farmer's capital engaged in cultivation ought to return interest during the year of tillage and harvest, and equally so while the land is in fallow (it being impracticable "to turn his money round," otherwise) these Norman lecturers on rural economy, appealing to my English notions of thrift, assured me that any system short of this must render farming "a losing concern,"—*une partie perdue !*

Their accounts proved, they said, that the substitution of these *plantes fourragères* for a complete fallow, was a considerable gain on the old plan. In the memorandum adduced in support of this assertion there was an outlay of 169 francs 40 centimes (7*l.* 10*s.*)* on every acre fallowed on the old plan; and of 299 francs 68 centimes (12*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*) on the tillage, cropping, manuring, rent, and interest of capital, on the new. But the return proved to be 592 francs 42 centimes, (24*l.* 13*s.*).

"Voilà, donc," says my French experimentalist, "une culture plus satisfaisante dans ses

* Inclusive of rent and interest of capital.

résultats, et surtout très productive ! Le cultivateur ne doit il pas, dans son intérêt personnel, et dans l'intérêt général, renoncer à cette ancienne pratique de jachères ? ” (“ There, now ! That is a system of husbandry far more satisfactory in its results ; and, above all, one that yields a very good return. Ought not every farmer, whether in respect of his own individual interest or of the general good, to abandon that old-fashioned plan of fallowing ? ”)

France contains many a tract of fertile earth, many districts which would remunerate the grower who might avail himself of natural advantages in combination with the most approved system of husbandry ; for, if the loamy soil produce, frequently, more than two quarters and a half, even under native cultivators, what might they not yield to the sound practical agriculturist of our country, in requital of his superior skill and capital ! On the other hand, there are poor, starving tracts, the meagreness of whose returns, either from their powers having been exhausted, or from the almost total absence of the elements of fertility, it is lamentable to contemplate. And yet, did not

the late owner of Holkham convert sandy wastes, yielding eighteen pence an acre, into farms returning a rent of a guinea per acre "all round!" I have traversed that most remarkable portion of the Earl of Leicester's estate, and gazed in wonder on the transformation. Here, however, is the ratio per acre English, of the produce in France, one province with another :—

QUARTERS.	BUSHEL.	PECKS.
2	4	3
2	3	2
2	2	2
2	1	0
1	7	2
1	6	2
1	5	3
1	3	2
1	2	2
1	1	0
1	0	0
	6	1
	5	2

At Chateaux des Vieux, in Barentin, to which my longest visit was paid, Mons. Beaudouin had realized, in the harvest of 1846, the highest quotation but one on this scale of quantities; and in this last harvest of 1847, cleared from every

acre of his wheat (thirty in all) the unprecedented quantity of four quarters, six bushels, and a peck.

Now it is worth while to investigate the practice of the two countries in respect of the relative treatment of the same description of land. I shall confine my observations to Kent, simply because constant residence in that county affords daily opportunities of noticing practical husbandry on every variety of soil, and of collecting authentic information. Our cultivators may be considered to farm well, and to act handsomely by the land in use, when they manure it freely every other year. Let us first take into account their importation of what is termed "London dung," brought down the river in barges containing manure valued from 16*l.* to 18*l.* We will say the tenant lays on every acre he wishes to "mend" eight loads of this matter (two horses to the cart-load). Each cart-load shall comprise forty-five bushels; and, as I ascertained by nicest scrutiny, each of those bushels will weigh sixty-six pounds. These eight cart-loads will, therefore, deposit 23,760 pounds weight of manure on

each acre (upwards of ten tons and a half), as a dressing for alternate years ; which is tantamount to 7,920 pounds (upwards of three tons and a half), for a yearly reparation.

Now let us turn our regards to the common farm-yard dung. The farmer who would resort to this the more usual resource (even where river navigation affords the other), inasmuch as it is close at hand, and demands no immediate disbursement of money, will consider it needful to distribute (not eight but) eighteen cart-loads of it as an equivalent to the metropolitan article. Each of these cart-loads will contain fifty bushels, of fifty pounds weight. These eighteen cart-loads will consequently spread over each acre nine hundred bushels, or (reckoning fifty pounds to the bushel) forty-five thousand pounds weight of yard dung. It is certain that some occupiers actually manure to this extent with yard dung *every year*; the conceived opinion being, that every load of London dung is worth upwards of five times the same quantity of yard dung; an opinion very generally corroborated by the fact, that two fields of the same quality of soil being selected

every third year for the two different manurings, shall exhibit in harvest a decided superiority in the produce raised from the London dung reparation, when contrasted with that from the yard dung.

I am speaking of the cultivation of the soil in the hands of men of competency, who resort, without stint or curtailment, to the surest ways and means of realizing profitable returns ; aware, as I am, that many holders will use a starved field for seven or even *ten* years without recourse to any but a few top-dressings (sprats, starfish, mussels, &c.), the stench of which superficial “amendments,” is only to be equalled by that which we may conceive pervaded the land of the Egyptians, when dead fish, flies, lice, and frogs, were in all their quarters.

This observation on neglect of manure applies equally to France, as may be inferred from the quotation I have given of the average produce. But I am at the present moment instituting a comparison between the “high” farming at the Châteaux des Vieux, and the system in force on thriving occupations in our own country. Taking

the theory of the best Norman agriculturists, which assigns one hundred and fifty-six bushels of manure, yearly, to every acre, and allowing fifty pounds weight to every such bushel, we perceive that the Frenchman's care of the soil is not unworthy of comparison with the efforts of the British farmer to do justice to the property in hand ; inasmuch as *he*, also, expends three tons and a-half, within forty pounds weight, on each acre ; and the admirable method he adopts for making the manure as efficient as chemical science can render it, will warrant our belief that his compost is as good as ours.

In the matter, therefore, of reparation by manures, I think our foreign brethren of the plough are not remiss, either in theory or practice ; but their harvests leave them at a vast interval behind us in the quotation of returns for all their expenditure of labour, *engrais*, and ingenuity.

I candidly admit my incompetency to solve the difficulty of ascertaining the cause of these shortcomings ; but I would submit that the foreigner is a continual loser through his neglect of turnip growth and the paucity of his store of sheep, the distribution

of which invaluable stock, when folded, is calculated to realize so great profit on the English farm.

The animal oil which insensibly exudes from the fleece, the putrescent steam which escapes from the crowded flock, (as fermentation advances among the roots and excrementitious deposits during the process of *feeding off*,) the active elements, such as hydrogen, carbon, and oxygen, which may then be said to be in motion, and operating by day and by night on the ground, nourishing plants, and forming the principles of productiveness, are advantages which, chemist as he is, the French farmer is either slow to appreciate, or, from limited resources, unable to secure. Witness the almost total absence of turnips and mangel wurzel! We may fall in with oil cake, on some of the farm premises, but may travel ninety miles without a glimpse of what the Scotchmen call "the mother of that dunghill which is the mother of everything else." Even their coleseed is cultivated for rape oil rather than for feeding off in what they call "parcage" and we term "folding."

Pasture land, moreover, is scarce; mainly,

on account of the "partage," system already mentioned, and, also, because there is such demand for cider and orchards. Hence, the alternations to which the French farmer resorts for the fattening of sheep within the buildings ! a practice which will be duly described in the next chapter. It struck me forcibly, that this housing of the flock was a great mistake ; and in reply to the farmer's argument,—“ Mais que voulez vous, donc ; nous cherchons à obtenir beaucoup de viande ; l'engraissement est commencé au pâturage et terminé à l'étable.”* I would not, out of mere courtesy, trust myself with the retort, “ You have not a sheep comparable to our south-downs in all your department ; nor a joint of mutton worth cooking in *our* style throughout France.”

But this matter of sheep-breeding and feeding is one of the weak points of my foreign acquaintance's theory. If there be ignorance or mismanagement, or indifference, on *that*

* “But what would you have us do ? Our object is to make plenty of meat ; so we begin the fattening process in the pastures, and finish it in the stable.”

head, no farm of any magnitude can prosper, and I think the reader will agree, that on review of the systems employed in the two countries, it is evident we are triumphantly in the ascendant as regards the powers of enhancing the amount of produce; though the theory of agriculture is familiarly understood by a vast number of cultivators in the various departments of France, to an extent of which the mass of our occupiers have not the remotest idea. Moreover, the research into chemical agency in connexion with the tillage of the soil is becoming daily more earnest and effectual. It is questionable whether the same class of men in England are disposed to be ranked as fellow students with these investigators of scientific truth. Be this as it may, scientific education is spreading far and wide among French growers. At the same time, the almost total absence of turnips, the very scanty flocks of sheep, the uncertainty of tenure arising from the Law of Inheritance, and the contracted scale of the farms, are grievous obstacles to general success among the French as corn growers; to say nothing of their slender capital. Consider-

ing what they actually accomplish under these glaring disadvantages, we may infer what they would have done in a more favourable position. Their genius, inventiveness, and zeal, combined with strictly economical habits, and a spirit of emulation which is not far removed from patriotic virtue, will always render them worthy competitors; and unless Time educate our growers to the full extent in which he is evidently enlightening *them*, we shall soon cease to talk about the French knowing nothing about farming.

CHAPTER IV.

HAVING in the last chapter recorded a few general observations on the cropping, manure, and stock of the French farmer, I shall proceed to narrate what came under my immediate notice on entering the yard at Château des Vieux, of Monsieur Beaudouin's farm, of two hundred acres English.

The first object that arrested my notice was the *vacherie*, (the cow-house,) a building of about eighty feet in length by twenty-six, having stalls for fifteen cows. There were only ten, however, on the farm. In front of this was a large open tank of about twenty-four feet in length by eighteen, filled with dark coffee-coloured liquid, which my conductor informed me was *L'Engrais Jauffret*, so called from Mons. Jauffret, an agriculturist (deceased) of the Mar-

seilles district, who bestowed vast pains on experiments for the purpose of ascertaining the shortest interval of time in which vegetable matter could be brought into a state of total putrefaction. It occurred to him that a fattening compost might be made from a number of weeds and valueless plants, more or less woody in their fibre, such as broom, sea-rush, tamarisk, fallen leaves, &c. which are generally thrown away as rubbish ; and thus to convert into useful ingredients every particle of organic matter hitherto disregarded on the farm. It was his object, moreover, to create a manure independent of stock ; and the success accompanying his experiments has been the cause of these “ rich compound cordial liquors ” being brewed in every part of France.

Monsieur Girardin, of whose correspondence I cannot speak too highly, has published an Essay on Mixens and Manures, in which he has introduced the mention of Koerte’s experiments, with the view of ascertaining the relative value of protected and exposed manure. One hundred loads of fresh dung are diminished in eighty-one days, (if left open to sun, rain, and wind,) to little

more than seventy-three; in two hundred and fifty-four days, to sixty-four; in three hundred and eighty four to sixty-two; in four hundred and ninety-three to forty-seven.

On many farms, even in England, the dung-hills are left open to the dry weather till they become little better than Rappee snuff; and are, at any rate, likely to make but poor *returns*, as a tobacconist would say, on view of such impoverished *engrais*.

Engrais is the term signifying "compost:" it also means "ingredient for fattening." Thus manure is *engrais* for land; and good forage is *engrais* for cattle. The tank of which I am speaking was crossed by a wooden bridge of broad planks, in the middle of which stood erect a tall post (between eighteen and twenty feet in height), fitted with a wooden pipe, such as may be seen conducting rain-water from roofs, the lower extremity of which descended to within a foot or two of the bottom of the tank, and through which an abundant discharge of the liquor might at any time be pumped up (by the hand-crank apparatus fitted on to the bridge and post), and

thrown upon the large dung-heap ranged on the other side of the tank, *i. e.* furthest from the cow-house.

This process of moistening the dung-heap from the tank, is called the *arrosement* ; or what we should call the watering, or wetting. I need hardly state that it is employed to fetch up and revive the fertilizing powers, volatile alkalis, of the manure. On enquiring into the quality and composition of this mixture, I learned that it was formed from the liquid (conducted through drains) from the cow-house,—from such water as fell from the clouds, or trickled into the tank out of the litter of the yard,—from the excrementitious secretions of the stock and of the inmates of the farmhouse ; from a certain quantity of chalk, and of mowed grass. This, in combination with a certain amount of the sweepings of the pig-styes, formed an *eau lessive*, or lie, which the farmers who duly believe in the theories of chemistry appreciate very highly. They fill water-carts from these tanks, and send them on to barren or unhealthy patches of land, to give such plots an *arrosement*, and stimulate with the ammonial

salts the vegetative powers beneath. In the height of summer, when the manure heap seems to be high dried, as alas ! it is but too generally suffered to become in our country, this *engrais Jauffret* is freely poured upon it, with admirable effect.

One of the cows, in the *vacherie*, was singularly beautiful. It was of the Cotentine race, from the vicinity of Caen, and resembled very closely the Alderney.* The manger in this cow-house was of stone ; ten inches only intervening between the ground (or cow-house floor) and the bottom of the said trough, or manger. The hay-rack was fixed at the height of three feet above the manger. A stone-built gutter ran along the whole length of the *vacherie*, at one end of which was a well, about six or seven feet deep, covered with a wooden lid, from which a drain led the fluid into the tank outside. Feeding from this manger was a fine Durham ox. One of the Cotentine cows, as beautiful a creature as ever stepped on grass, was pointed

* The calf of one these cows was lately brought into my parish.

out to me as a contributor to the dairy of thirty *litres* a-day. The *litre* contains one pint and three quarters, imperial measure, English; therefore, this animal yielded upwards of thirteen gallons daily. She was remarkably long in the hinder legs, and in this respect alone differed in general aspect from the Alderney. She was milked three times between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. Shakespeare's "Beatrice" says, "God sends a cursed cow short horns;" but my *belle Cotentine* belied the adage; for she was but sparingly endowed in that feature, and proved a blessing to the dairy. At one end of this *vacherie*, at the height of six feet from the ground, was a long box or crib, somewhat resembling a child's cot, seven feet in length. A fixed ladder led up to it, and in the wall, at the topmost round of the ladder, was a hole, ten inches square, for ventilation and light at that particular corner. This was the roost of the *vacher*, the cow-herd, whose bedding I saw in the said cot. Here he invariably sleeps, every night in the year; waking to gaze on chines, and inhaling, as he snores, that health-imparting aroma, which, if I might

judge by his plump and ruddy countenance, is, probably, more digestible and salubrious than the beef upon which, had he an English stomach, his dreams would inevitably be founded ; regardless of Sir Andrew Aguecheek's opinion, that such visions and propensities do harm to man's wit ; and more properly, indeed, may he be said to live under the *régime* of Dr. Johnson's witticism

“ Who drives fat oxen should himself be fat ! ”

The *vacherie* was well thatched. M. Beaudouin, it is to be observed, is the owner. Were he merely occupier, he would still be required to bear the expense of thatching, and, indeed, *of all repairs becoming necessary from wear and tear*. On every farm of 200 acres, the tenant is bound to supply 312 square feet breadth of straw (one foot depth), for the farm buildings. If those buildings, however, be tiled or slated, as they often are, the rent is proportionately higher ; inasmuch, as he derives all the benefit of that amount of straw for litter and manure.

The residence-house for the servants, bailiff, &c., bore a plate, somewhat resembling our insurance office devices, P. A. C. L. (*Propreté*

assuré contre l'Incendie,)* and this is the universal affix wherever buildings are insured.

From the *vacherie*, I proceeded to the principal stable for the farm-horses; the arable land on which they work comprising 114 acres.

There were no stalls. The standing was for five horses. Another stable, not far distant, accommodated four more; besides the château stable, for the four saddle or carriage-horses in M. Beaudouin's use. This horse-stable (I saw mares only on the farm) was of eleven feet six inches pitch of height, inside measure, and had five windows. The *charretier* (from whence we derive our word "carter," as we do "car" from the French *char*), the horsekeeper, or principal carter, a single man, was supplied here in like manner with the *vacher* or cowherd, with a bed; for the notion on the French farm is, that neither horses, cows, or sheep, should be left entirely to themselves during the night, any more than young children in a nursery. Hence, the arrangement of this Jupiter-Ammon-couch close to a square hole in the wall, which, in consider-

* Property insured in case of fire.

ation of the strong effluvium, is eight inches wider every way than the hole in the *vacherie*; being one foot six inches square, and capable of being fitted with glass in the depth of winter. There were four splendid grey mares, from the Boulogne district; one stood sixteen hands and a half high; another, however, exhibited considerably too much curvature in the spine, and was awfully hollow-backed. They were presently about to turn out to work. Their coat was in fine condition; and their ears, manes, feet, and fetlocks beautifully clean. They know not what it is to see a "mate;" such as is retained on our Kentish farms. A little lad, of about thirteen years of age (taken from one of the cottages of the parish, and serving a few months in turn with some other, but rarely through the twelve-month), brings in the hay or green forage (*lupuline*, or black clover), and cleans out the stable at seven o'clock in the morning, *when the carter is gone to plough*; but this urchin never touches the horses, and never goes with the plough. The *régisseur*, "bailiff," or headman on the farm, laughed heartily at the account of our

Kentish "mates" standing for hours to coax cart-horses to swallow "cavings;"* as nursemaids do by the cot of a little child in the nursery, with a cup of senna-leaf decoction, and, "Come, Master Johnnie ! you had better take it. Be a good boy, now. When it's down, it's over !"

His observation was acute enough, that if empty wheat-ears required so much persuasion to be taken at all, the eater would be no loser by being left to his own contemplations without them ! I did not proceed to astonish him by giving a description of the ridiculous, the culpable manner in which this losing game is played on Sunday forenoon in many a stable of Protestant and enlightened England, but walked on towards the *bergerie* (the sheep stabling).

This building was in length 100 feet; in breadth twenty-five; in height fifteen. "What a noble room," thought I, "for a National school in my village !" There were sixteen windows in it, three feet by two, not glazed but doored; so as to be opened or closed according to the temperature arising from the weather without, or the sheep

* Wheat-ears containing *nothing* !

within. There was space for the housing of 250 small sized, or 200 large, sheep.* During four months, i. e. from December the 15th to April 15th, the animals are shut up here day and night. Indeed they take them in at night from October 12, and let them go abroad for seven or eight weeks by day. I explored this *bergerie* in all its parts. The roof was carried up to a vast height, admirably slated, and well contrived to keep in thorough ventilation a large store of straw, hay, lucerne, and clover, in a spacious loft over the ceiling of the sheep-apartment below. A rack was fitted up all round the interior, next to the walls; and a double one was fixed in the centre of the area. Straw is supplied to these long mangers in ample quantity. The sheep pick it over for stray wheat-ears, and such dried grass as may remain in the straw, which is thus, agreeably to the shepherd's intention, pulled out on to the ground, where it accumulates very rapidly. This is some such amusement as we see young folk resort to with a piece of bread, as they sit at table waiting for something more relishing. However, the following system commences in October. Between

* Most of these had tails twenty-two inches long.

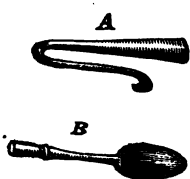
five in the morning and noon the racks are replenished with straw three times. At one o'clock the shepherd and boy bring in a supply of carrots, or mangel-wurzel, or turnips, (if grown,) cut up, in the proportion of eleven bushels for 100 sheep. At three o'clock a further feed is given of dried tares, peas, or hay; but the latter is very seldom used. The quantity given is ten bundles of sixteen pounds weight for 100 sheep. Sometimes oil-cake is added in corresponding ratio. At five o'clock eighteen heavy bushels of chaff are given to the same number. The feed at seven o'clock corresponds with that at three, (tares, peas, or hay,) and this terminates the refectation of the day. A long trough is kept filled throughout the day with water, thickened with the grounds of coleseed, after it has undergone pressure in the rape-oil mill. This admixture makes the water more nourishing, and as dark as coffee. Such is their winter keep.

The summer feeding for 100 sheep would be ten acres and a half of white clover, besides the sheep-walks on the sloping hill-sides, to the extent of twenty acres; and the edish or after-grass of twelve meadows of pasture land.

I have already stated in Chapter IV. of the First Volume, the terms on which the shepherd serves. He, also, sleeps in a corner of the *bergerie*; as the carter in the horse-stable, and the cow-herd in the *vacherie*. In the lambing season, and when the nights are so warm as to admit of the flock being in the open air, he deposits himself, according to the opportunities afforded for an hour or two of slumber, in a sort of wooden pent-house on two wheels, very like a colossal dog-box, zinc-roofed, and supplied with water-shoots. It has two shafts and a rest which maintains it in a horizontal position when the horse is gone; and no great effort is needful to move it about on the field, if necessary;—it having been taken on to the field by a horse. The axle is prolonged by fourteen inches on the side in which the sliding panel is framed by which he enters the box. As I was standing by this travelling bed-chamber, I espied the shepherd's crook. There was no spring on it, as is now mostly to be seen on ours. The staff terminated at one



end thus:—fig. A; and at the other as seen in fig. B; as if fitted with an iron gravy-spoon. My conductor explained that the shepherd used this



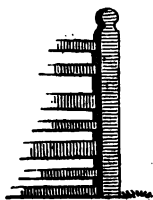
end of his rural staff for the purpose of scooping out in a moment a piece of earth; or dispatching, instead thereof, a stone for the head or tail of any sheep he might perceive straying into a crop, or betaking himself in truancy to any place out of bounds. *A première vue* any one would suppose this appendage was removable at will to give a drench! instead of being applicable to such field-artillery practice as that just mentioned.

John, Popish Archbishop of Tuam, closed his memorable epistle, (that monster missive of the 18th January, 1848,) by reminding the Earl of Shrewsbury of the mystical signification of his pastoral crozier—"PUNGIT rebelles, sustinet infirmos, reducit errantes;"—i. e. drives its sharp end into the contumacious, stays the gait of the feeble, and leads back into the right path those that are straying. The *spoon* of the staff ("the merciful symbol" he terms it), may suggest to

the indignant prelate an additional figure ! to wit, the exhibition of a *dose* of spiritual censures and cathartical vituperation for every non-conformist sheep that may presume to bleat in too loud a tone against the overseer of the flock. Valeat quantum !

Mons. Beaudouin's *parcage*, or sheep-hurdles and folding apparatus, were of a very showy kind, and only appropriate to a *ferme ornée* of most elaborate finish and refinement. The ordinary hurdles resemble ours ; but his were of oak, planed, and painted light blue ! Six feet in length, and four feet six in height. Each had cost eleven francs (9s. 2d.) They were the only objects I saw upon the farm which seemed a degree too showy.

These hurdles were retained in position by slanting spars, like pales, placed in the angle of forty-five outside the enclosure ; and secured by two long pegs, half as long again as those used on clothes-lines. I should have been better pleased to see the commonplace eighteen-



penny hurdle and tarred twine. The cærulean paint had a *bizarre* and cockney appearance, reminding one unhappily of milk and water, or *lait bleu*. But there was plenty of business-like matter to contemplate in other directions, and I walked on towards the ploughs. As we proceeded, I asked what show of poultry and pork there might be in the yard.

There were 160 fowls, 30 turkeys, 76 ducks; no geese. No poultry was sold, nor any eggs.

The farm comprised, as I have already stated, 200 acres. I will now state how these were disposed of:—

	ACRES.			ACRES.
Wheat ...	30	...	Brought over	116
Oats ...	28	...	Trifol. Incar. to be	} 4
Barley ...	2	...	followed by a seed-	
Red Clover	15	...	plot of Coleseed,	
White Clover	15	...	—	
Potatoes* ...	10	...	Meadow ...	16
Rye ...	4	...	Orchard ...	4
Carrots and } M. Wurzel }	4	...	Hill-side Pasture	20
Coleseed ...	8	...	Underwood ...	40
Carried over	116			200

The hay at Château des Vieux was housed as

* The Patraque Jaune.

I have already described in a former chapter; but there is every probability of the stack system, such as prevails throughout England, being eventually adopted on all the moderately large farms in France. One spirited agriculturist (of Coutances) had stacked his hay for thirteen years past. He stated that his horsekeeper had tried to keep a stack of thirty loads in use over three years and eight months, beginning when it was two years old. The horses ate it with relish through three years; but were unwilling to feed on it beyond that date, unless it was watered. They consumed it then, but apparently without any liking. He gave it as his opinion, therefore, that no hay should be kept over four years; nor begun earlier than the close of the second year; and, in support of this opinion, quoted the instances of several noted English farmers, who had asserted that ploughhorses could not thrive on hay less than one year old. He might have added that the portion of hay given to our team-horses is insignificant enough at any time. The French farmers consider the stack system more expensive than their favourite one of housing;

one point, among others, being the necessity of setting up a fence all round the stack, to protect it from the stock, which would otherwise come and feed from it ; and because the tenant cannot exercise such controul over the consumption, on this stack system, as he can when he sees a certain number of fourteen pound bundles given out. The inferiority of the forage, however, thus divided into infinitesimal parts, is conspicuous. It becomes flavourless, dry, and poor, and, very often, mouldy. It cannot be improved, even by salt ; which, in our stacks, is of considerable advantage.

On our walk to the plough, I inquired into the management of the fences. There was not a quick hedge on the two hundred acres ; but M. Beaudouin contemplated *treillages en fil de fer* (wire fences) ; there being an excellent manufactory of every description of these on Messieurs Fronchon's works in Paris. The only impediment to their general adoption is the expense ; which, however, is one-fifth less than that incurred in England. The French proprietors are also reluctant to fell timber (oak posts being

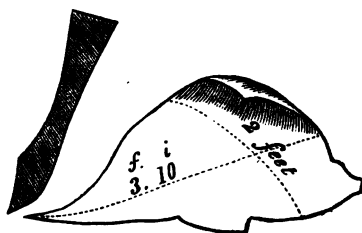
needful for wire fencing); the consumption of coal having exceedingly increased since the establishment of so many railways; and forests becoming more needful than ever, to meet the demands for domestic fuel.

I noticed one of the outbuildings with a new roof of slates. It appears that slate has begun to supersede thatch on farm premises; and a very wise change for the better, too. The gain of litter, as regards the economy herein exercised with respect to straw, is considerable. Moreover, the value of abundance of water for irrigation, for *arrosement*, as they call it, or sprinkling, and for the stock, &c., induces the farm occupiers to collect and preserve as much of this most essential element as they can contrive to stow away in tank, pond, or reservoir; and they have, long since, found the superiority of the slate-roofing for this purpose over the old rotting and rotten thatch. The rate of their fire insurance, also, as in our country, is augmented in proportion to the number of thatched buildings on the premises. There is another circumstance which, I found, weighed with the farm owner.

On every occupation of upwards of 160 acres, a threshing-machine is permanently annexed to the principal barn; and the favourite practice is to build such barn with a vast roof, the elevation of which admits of large chambers, resembling a warehouse, for the stowage of grain immediately after it has been threshed out and cleaned below; for the cleaning-machine is placed beneath the cylinder portion of the threshing-machine. It has continually happened that, in frost and subsequent thaw, the half-rotten thatch has admitted such quantities of water, as to place the whole store of grain in jeopardy; whereas, a well-slatted roof throws off the snow and rain, without detriment to the treasure within; and where a slate here and there exhibits a crack, the repair is promptly and inexpensively made. A law has recently been enacted, forbidding any thatched roofs within the precincts of a town.

At length we came up to the plough. The ploughman was at his work with three horses abreast, unaccompanied by mate or boy. The

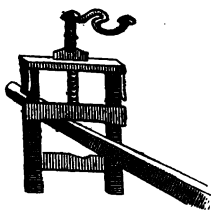
beam (called by the French *la haie*) was nine feet in length; the wheel of thirty-two inches diameter. The share and coulter were of this shape and dimension.



The remainder of the gear was not materially different from the English, with exception of that part in front to which had been given the name of *regulateur*. It was a sort of hook, acting on a screw, over a circular plane, in which were holes for the reception of an iron *cheville* (peg), which, by fixing this hook to the right or left, threw the plough left or right, accordingly as the ground, slanting in excess, demanded inclination of the machinery one way or the other.

There was also a screw (*manivelle*) on the topmost part of the plough, above the collar, for elevating or lowering the beam; much in the

same way in which napkin-presses were formerly made.

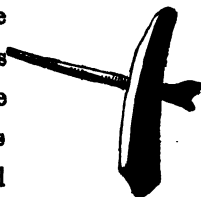


The furrows under process of formation were by measurement seven inches and a half deep ; and the rate at which this one labourer and three horses work, one day with another, accomplishes one acre and two-fifths in ten hours.

The man stuck his long whip into a hole made for that purpose in the right handle of the plough. The off and near horse had a rope rein fastened to their bridle-bits ; the middle horse none ; and these two rope-reins were gathered up into a bow, and thrown over a knob on the cross-bar between the plough-handles. On calling out *Ohu!* the horses bore off to the right : at the word *Dià!* (decar) they went in the left direction. The *palonniers* (bars) were admirably made ; and the iron work, in every part, equally

so : but the wheels were heavy ; being overloaded with wood, and more like those used in our barrows than any other wheel. I observed that the horse to the plougher's right hand was the animal whose movements regulated the action of the other two. To prevent any one of the horses jostling against the other (which the two to the left are apt to do,) a piece of wood is attached to the harness, pierced for the reception of a piece of stick, which projects with a *noli me tangere* sort of agency, which in English phrase might be denominated the "keep-your-distance" baton or staff. Directly the horse tries to close up with the other, who is armed with this means of giving him a poke in the ribs, he feels the point of the *remembrancer*, and sheers off without delay ; as I witnessed twice.

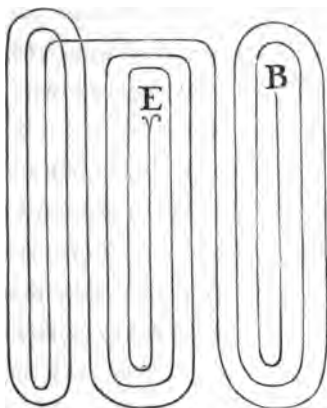
These plough-horses are equipped with almost as much leather as those which are seen in their wagons and coaches, especially above the withers. Some of the ornaments annexed to the housing and head-gear, are exceedingly picturesque ; the



massive tassels of red worsted, depending by handsome blue plaited cords; and here and there a shining bit of polished brass, contributing to enliven the trappings. Occasionally the reins are of whitish buff leather, but more commonly they are of rope.

I walked alongside this three-horse plough for an hour. The labour was to prepare for coleseed to be put in about the third week in July, and subsequently picked out and transplanted, as we do by brocoli. The French plough begins this work by *endosser la raie*, literally "endorsing the line;" but, in fact, so to plough as to raise up an apex of earth. Then comes the action *fendre un endos*, which converts *une portion endossée* (the apex of the mound) into a *raie*, or deeper furrow. The soil is always thrown to the right. To show how the plough proceeded on this occasion I annex a diagram.—At the letter B the coulter began to cut; at E it would end its work; having completed sixteen furrows. The labourer was a comparatively "new hand," but evidently understood his craft. After three quarters of an hour the chief *charretier*, or

wagoner, came upon the field (the soil of which was of two parts clay, one of sand,) “to do him-



self the honour of tilling the soil in the presence of the Monsieur, who was paying *tel compliment à la Normandie*.” His deputy was shod in leather boots, (the *sabot* is disappearing,) but he, *le chef*, shuffled along with a pair of list shoes !!!

“—— nunc pede libero
Pulsanda tellus !”

which, for the nonce, might be rendered—

“Now walk we on with unencumbered toes !”

but he was a thorough master of his art. I could

not have believed it possible for one man, unassisted, to have got over the ground with his three Picardy mares, his ropes, and whip, and worsted soles, in the gallant style I witnessed.

My Kentish readers will readily imagine my mentioning the turn-rest-plough. It is not unknown to the French. They call it the *charrue tourne oreille*; giving the word "ear" (*oreille*) for our word. My chief informants, however, expressed their opinion that this description of plough was ill-suited for *terres grasses* (rich loamy soil). It worked well, they said, on the steep hill-sides; but on the plain and in the valley it had been pronounced undesirable, unless the land lay very light and sandy. I saw a very accurate delineation of my old acquaintance's features in Paris, and have in my library at present a fine engraving, published in Rouen, of a plough made according to the improvements suggested by Mons. Beaudouin, for regulating the inclination of the machine during its working in the furrow. This is mainly effected by long iron rods, acting as horizontal levers which govern a vertical lever. The beam is elevated or depressed by a little cog-

wheel acting on frets in the sides of the *tiges*, or uprights ; and a central rod exercises power on a regulating index, or arm, which may be screwed on at will in any one of four holes, and which, by receiving through its lower extremity the iron bar that, instead of a fixed apparatus, receives the hook to which the billets are attached, serves to maintain the plough in a slanting position according to the urgency that may demand it. This is the improvement on the Cauchois plough, for which Mons. Beaudouin received the prize awarded at the Agricultural Meeting of Pavilly in the month of July 1842. It is very ingenious ; and the French labourer's fancy is agreeably recreated by such *perfectionnemens* ; neither does he grudge the time necessarily expended on all these screws, wheels, and winches—any thing artistical and HYPERtechnical being congenial to the peculiar taste of *la grande nation* ; but I suppose my farming acquaintances will be of my own opinion, that, in all the processes of husbandry, time is almost as invaluable as manure, money, and mechanism together ; and too much of this precious advantage must occasionally be frittered

away, especially by a man ploughing alone, upon whom "a screw loose" might entail delays of more than a commonly dangerous nature. This lavish consumption of time appeared to me one of the reprehensible points in our opposite neighbour's *exploitation*.* Many long days are absolutely lost in every month by the distances over which, in the majority of farms, the common field-labourers must necessarily travel, in consequence of there being no cottages on the estate for their lodgment; the common practice being, as I have already stated, for this class of work-people to reside in the main street of the nearest village or town.

I shall not dilate further on the ploughs of Barentin, except to mention an improvement on the potato-plough of Dezert; having a few remarks reserved for the implements of agriculture I saw next day at Beau Repaire.

As we walked off the field I noticed some heaps of manure. This was from the *bergerie*. The sheep being confined there through so many months, and littered with such abundance of

* The French term for the management of a farm.

straw, are contributors, to a great extent, of this compost, which is formed by the straw being suffered to remain in the *bergerie* for a fortnight. On the close of the fourteenth day this *bergerie*-floor is cleared out. It is found to be a compact mass covering the area of one hundred feet by twenty-five, a foot deep; and this enormous accumulation is heaped up by the side of the tank, filled, as I said, with the *engrais Jauffret*, large quantities of which liquid are pumped on to it: and when it has well fermented, the carts carry it out upon the land.

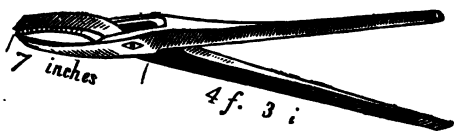
I saw a moderately sized cart thus employed. In the adjoining field were four horses drawing a ponderous harrow, called the *herse bataille*; for paring the top soil of a tract where carrots had been grown. The rollers on this estate were of oak; but the use of iron rollers is extensive.

There is a double roll of formidable construction; acting not only with power of compression, but also as a harrow of no little efficaciousness. Two oak cylinders, of eighteen

inches diameter, are fitted, one before the other, (about fifteen inches apart,) into a square frame, seven feet by six, in which they revolve as the horse or horses proceed, guided by the ploughman, who holds two handles, which are fitted on like those of a plough. On strong, clayey, tenacious soil, this machine breaks up the clods with marvellous rapidity.

A peep into some outbuildings introduced to my notice a tolerably large store of agricultural implements. The sithes were clumsily made, in comparison with ours; some had the "basket" appendage; and all the handles were curved. The *old* pattern of the French sithe exhibited a perfectly straight handle. The dung-forks were strange-looking tools; having tines nine inches long, and only two inches and a half apart: ours in England being, I believe, at least from eight to ten. There were weed-pincers, however, of very simple construction, which did their work of thorough extirpation in most creditable style. About five or six old women, armed with this instrument, can clear a foul acre in an incredibly short space of time; and with hardly more bend-

ing of the body than a housemaid displays while sweeping a carpet. I saw them extracting thistles with roots of goodly length. Here is the tool :



It is of deal : one handle (the flat-sided one) moves in the other, which is rounded : the “grip” ends of it are notched. On application to the thistle, for instance,—the weeder, emulating the dentist, gets a good hold of so much of the root as on pressure of the tool to the surface of the ground can be grasped ; one smart tug, and up comes the mischief, “fangs and all !”

The cost of construction is fifteen-pence ; and I penned a memorandum for the making of one of these *echardonnoirs*, or “thistle extractors,” whenever I next should betake myself to a little gardening on my manse in the purely agricultural county of Kent. The most troublesome weeds

in Normandy are the *avoine à chapelot*,* and the *chiendent* (*titicum repens*).



The drill machines were hardly inferior to those on our English farms. I saw two of five boxes capable of sowing eight acres in nine hours ; ten furrows to the rood. They manage this with two men. Messrs. Barreau and Roville introduced several improvements into the *semoir* (drill) of Spain, the country where it was said this very useful implement was originally constructed ; but the drills I saw were confessedly made from genuine English patterns. It is to be observed, however, that the farming at Chateau des Vieux was conducted under all the advantages of a liberal outlay ; the owner being a gentleman of easy fortune. Having possessed himself of these implements, he would naturally adopt the *semis en ligne* (drill sowing) ; but on the generality of farms the *semis*

* So called from its resemblance to a string of beads.

à la volée (broad cast) continues to be the favourite practice. I was informed that the French *hectare* (2A. 1R. 35P.) demanded eight *sillons* (furrows) of 225 yards. They use about four bushels and a half to the *hectare* for wheat sowing; eight for oats; five for barley; eight for peas.

M. Fauchet showed me on his farm a very ingenious turnip-seed drill on one wheel, working like a barrow, on the principle of the roasting-jack chain. This was his own improvement on the *semoir brouette* of Roville, which, at the earliest stage of experiments on this system in France, enabled a man to sow four acres in a day, if he kept his furrows twenty-eight inches apart; and three acres, if the furrows were made eighteen inches apart.

After inspecting the drills, I examined the flails. They are precisely such as we use, without any the slightest perceptible difference. The winnowing-machines were likewise identical. The wheel-barrows were many and multiform; a considerable amount of labour being accomplished with this useful article even on the comparatively

large farms. The French farmer is a great economist of carts and horses : indeed, on the territory in which the *parcellement system* prevails in its worst forms, *all the crops are carried in wheelbarrows*; and there are many *estates* (!) upon which a cart never makes its appearance; as may be seen in the neighbourhood of Paris particularly. On this head, however, I may jump at once from the ridiculous to the sublime; reversing the adage, to introduce the *Chariot du Pays de Caux*, or Monsieur Beaudouin's wagon. It was an extraordinary specimen, manufactured on the premises. The wheelwright had come to the farm for several days together, and completed it on the premises, at a cost of 17*l.* English. The sides were much the same as those described and illustrated in Chap. II. of Vol. I. There was no bed or bottom to this wagon : the upper ledge of it was about six feet six inches above the ground; the fore-wheel measured four feet in diameter; the hinder six. The length of the vehicle from where the tail-board in ours would have been, to the front, was twenty-five feet; the pole eight feet six inches. I believe the bed of our wagons seldom exceeds twelve feet

six in length, and four feet in breadth.* This grandsire of all the tribe of *chariots*, as the French term them, measured,

“Like three single gentlemen rolled into one,”

exactly thirty-three feet six inches. It would be a rich treat to see it debouching upon Thames-street out of St. Peter's-hill ! “One good turn” would deserve much encomium, but hardly render “*another*” desirable !

There was another wagon on two wheels only, each wheel being six feet six inches in diameter, the body being well poised at its centre. A *méchonique* (already described in Chap. II. of Vol. I.) is in this instance very ingeniously applied to the hinder part of the wheels, by means of the horses' hinder quarters pressing on the apparatus as they begin to back on going down hill. The animals' effort tightens a chain which instantly applies a bar to the wheel, and effectually retards their rotatory action. This wagon was twenty-two feet in length from the tail to the tip of the pole: the latter was of one entire piece of elm.

* Our Kentish “tug” does not exceed fourteen feet. It bears the nearest resemblance to the French wagon.

The sides of both these carriages were of poplar wood; the other parts of elm, beech, and ash. They are very light. Unwieldy as their dimensions are, and however massive the wheels, they are readily drawn by two horses abreast; and I saw two tons of hay (three hundred and twenty "bottles") brought in by three Picardy mares in double quick time. The value of the said load was stated to be worth 120 francs, or 5*l.* English, which would be only 2*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

The French tenant expends only half that money on his wagon which would be incurred by our English farmer. He employs the wheelwright, ploughwright, and machinist in the capacity of a working carpenter, whose operations are carried on under his personal inspection. By favour of this economical arrangement, a plough costs only 5*l.* 10*s.*; an average-sized harrow (with wooden teeth) 4*s.* 6*d.*; a roller, 1*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* Even a threshing-machine costs but 5*l.*, inclusive of the winnowing apparatus, and they are substantially and neatly made.

In the outlay on living stock, the occupier expends his money a little more freely; giving from

25*l.* to 27*l.* for a good cart-horse ; and from 8*l.* to 20*l.* for a cow, according to the breed. The farriers' bills are much on a par with ours ; and the charge for forging four shoes for a team-horse is half-a-crown English.

While talking about tenant's outgoings, I learned from my informant (himself an occupier of 142 acres) the prices which were obtainable at that present time, July 1847, for some of the stock reared on the farms in the neighbourhood. A living bullock fetched sixpence the English pound ; a sheep sevenpence halfpenny in the carcase,—an enormous price for France.* Lamb one shilling a pound in the carcase ; which might be said to act as a direct embargo on the sale of lamb. A calf eightpence-halfpenny in the carcase. These excessive prices arose from the same causes, nearly, which have, for some time past, rendered beef, mutton, and veal so dear in our own country, *i. e.* pork was hardly purchasable. The “keep,” owing to long droughts, and the failure of the potato crop, had been so scarce as to

* I saw twenty sheep sold in Sittingbourne, on Saturday, Feb. 12th, 1848, for 54*l.*

deter the majority of farmers or housekeepers from attempting to fatten a pig ; and pork at that moment was being sold at a franc a pound. Barndoor fowls were sold at 2s. 6d. to 3s. the couple ; a capon for 5s. ; ducks 2s. 6d. the couple ; a goose for 4s. 2d. ; a turkey for 6s. 8d. " Nous sommes obligés à faire bon ménage " (we are obliged to economise), said my companion, " for we tenants stand to all repairs of wear and tear on the farming premises ; except where oak timber is wanted : *that* is provided by the owner."

" And your wife and daughters," said I, " what part do they fulfil in the general housekeeping ?"

" They overlook all the women, and are trained to do the farm-servants' work, should necessity arise. For instance, you may see a farmer's daughter milking at three o'clock in the afternoon ; at five she may be heard playing a rondo on her piano-forte. She helps to set the dough, and see the coppers filled for scalding water. *Après* (sometime afterwards), she amuses herself with *un petit dessin*, a little drawing."

The tenant keeps a saddle-horse, and a vehicle resembling our old gigs ; but no other description

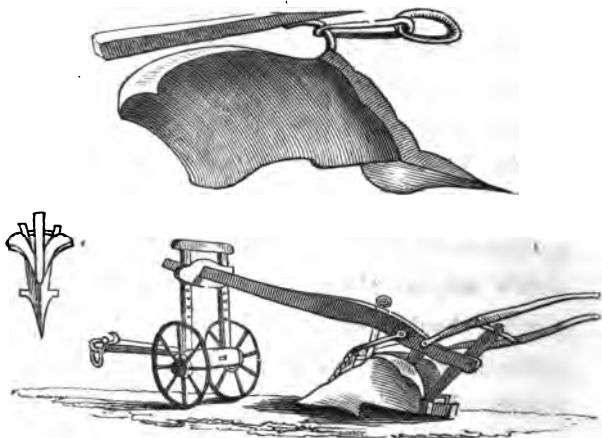
of carriage. But, after all, this class of agriculturists is hardly to be identified with the mass of our tenant farmers. The large majority live in the town nearest to the land they occupy; and fall rather under the denomination of tradesmen, and small placemen, or civil functionaries, *who have a little land which they farm*; thus uniting two distinct avocations, and, possibly, for the very best of reasons; because neither, singly, would supply competence. Now, in our highly-favoured country, the genuine farmer could, with difficulty, endure such a position. In his heart there is a feeling of attachment,—I might almost say affection,—for the monotonous tracts of land on which he opens his eyes at dawn. He may have but little feeling or perception of the beauties of nature, but gazes with complacency, and, *sometimes*, at least, with gratitude, on the broad acres where the useful is blended with the beautiful; where he has bestowed patient labour, proportionate to his experience, and overcome the many difficulties which, from time to time, seemed to predicate that such labour would be in vain. The waving barley, and the golden-eared wheat exhibit, as it

were, a granary to meet his individual wants, as well as the demands of an hourly increasing population ; and it is joy and gladness to him, when his eye at a glance beholds the noon-tide rays resting on a sunny slope, where many a heavy load of corn has ripened ; or watches the descent of a genial shower on a hitherto barren and thirsty patch of soil, where, for week after week, no water hath fallen. With equal satisfaction and self-gratulation, he eyes the sleek team-horses, and the fattening beasts, and the fleeces that whiten his turnip-fields, covered with thriving hundreds of sheep. "All this, ay, more," our tenant farmer lives and loves to see, daily, hourly ; and to such a spirit the incarceration, as he would call it, of lodging in a town, from which the *ruralities* I have been sketching must only be every now and then visited, would be almost intolerable. He fixes his habitation amid the fields which place in his hand, in due season, the staff of life ; and though, as yet, the average description of tenant farmers are slow of heart to believe the truths of those enlightened processes which modern discoveries are daily

developing ; though less of principle presides over the practice they still apply to their occupations than men of research, friends to agriculture, would fain see generally adopted ; though the theories they have at length received into their system of cultivation are too promiscuously carried out to entitle such casual observance of rule to the appellation of science, the staunch perseverance of these enterprising sons of Great Britain, amidst discouragements of the most irritating character, amidst watchfulness and self-denial which might enfeeble the stoutest frame, amidst hopes and fears that might enervate minds of far more extensive capacity, constitutes a claim on our admiration, which not a whole kingdom's subjects alone, but the monarch on the throne, should delight to honour, and the advisers in royal councils should be foremost to revere. I wish it were in my power to add that protection to agriculture in our own country had been proportionate to the sympathy which every right-minded member of the community cannot but feel in the rights to which our land-occupiers are entitled ; and in the wrongs by which they

have been but too commonly oppressed by every government in succession, whether in respect of rates, taxes, fruit-bills, or free trade. But the French farmer raises the same cry.

We were drawing near to the largest barn on the homestead at Chateau des Vieux, when my attention was directed to Monsieur Beaudouin's potato field-plough.



It is drawn by two horses : it opens the ridges, casts up the potatoes, and leaves them ready for the line of women and children who follow in its wake and pick up the crop ; which is thus carried

off the field at a cost of less than one farthing the bushel.*

The common practice, however, is similar to ours. The labour in that case is calculated at a penny a-sack. Mons. B. prefers the plough, and employs very old men,—“foundered”—middle-aged women, and boys and girls, at from five-pence to eightpence a-day, to carry the potato crop into three carts, which are brought on to the field, and filled from bushel-baskets. I carried home to England a dozen potatoes from his early frame-plots in the house-gardens, hoping to raise a stock therefrom. *Nous verrons!* I think we should do well to follow this enlightened cultivator's example in the particular I am about to mention, it being questionable whether we have not “bred in and in,” as the phrase is, till every sack contains hundreds of cousins, to the eventual extinction of the race. Mons. Beau douin, holding that opinion, had raised eight rows, of thirty yards' length, of beautiful plant

* This is the Scotch method, I believe. It was commonly to be seen, some years since, on Lord Mansfield's estate at Caen Wood, Hampstead.

from the green berry itself, of a white kidney-potato of the preceding year.

As we came within sight of the barn, I asked for some information as to the manner in which the farmers sell their wheat.

The wagoner goes to market with his load, unaccompanied by mate or other individual. On his arrival there, the regular porters of the market unload the wagon and pitch the wheat, receiving five centimes a sack for the job (one halfpenny): the wagoner himself simply taking charge of his team. In the largest corn-markets the charge is a trifle higher; sometimes a penny. This payment is not only to requite the porter, but also to purchase right of standing.

The farmer sometimes rides to market with a sample, according to our usage; but he sends his load on beforehand by several hours. He exhibits his sample, and, if he find a buyer, proceeds at once to deliver the quantity; but, if the buyer be not prepared to receive it at once, a day is fixed for the delivery; and, in this case, the sacks are left in charge of the clerk of the market for the next market-day's sale, paying a half-

penny per sack for the accommodation. He then goes over again in person ; but, if unable to do so, he avails himself of the agency of the factor, who negotiates with any buyer he may find ; and notice of such sale is sent to the farmer, who calls on that day-week for the money. The wagoner is never entrusted with such commissions.

At length we came up to the barn, but no threshing was in progress ; as was likely in the middle of July. The threshing on all farms of upwards of one hundred and twenty acres is done by machinery, for the construction of which the French adopt the Scotch model. Immediately contiguous to the barn is a circular pent-house, slated or thatched, under which is the gear around which the horses walk. They do not station any one in the centre with a whip, as in our country ; there was no perch or seat for such a helper, and they seldom employ above two horses, though the apparatus is made for four.

The cylinders and their annexed mechanism are fixed on a floor eight feet above the barn-floor in the middle bay. The beam passed into

the barn at the height of about nine feet from the ground. Four men are retained for the work ; two of whom are stationed on the plat-form, around which are heaped the sheaves, which are taken from the bay alongside (*le tas*). One of these two is incessantly busied in drawing up the sheaves from the said bay, and feeding the machine ; the other looks to the action of the machinery, the cylinder, &c. A third stands at the doorway (*grille*) by which the straw comes rushing down, where he takes it up and casts it into the empty “*tas*” (bay), and now and then throws it outside the barn. He also *speaks* to the horses, but never strikes them. I saw a twisted leather thong hanging up at the doorway, which was used to make a “clack” whenever the horses might loiter. In cases where they know the horses to be sluggards, a little boy is employed to “hie” out and encourage the animals ; but they are never struck, because any violent jerk, occasioned by the horse’s quickening his pace, might do much mischief to the mechanism. The fourth man is occupied, under the platform, in superintending the cleaning machine,

which is set in motion by the same engine which threshes out the grain. The grain falls into this cleaning apparatus, and is by this fourth hand shovelled aside into a heap, on the foundation-floor of the barn.

I ought to mention that these worthy Normans have improved the original Scotch machine. The mechanism I inspected on this occasion never breaks the straw or bruises it so roughly as to break the stem asunder by giving a needless number of blows. The stem lies at length between the extremities of the cylinders, in order to be *battu à travers* ; whereas, in general, it is laid at right angles to the cylinders.

These are called the *cyindres alimentaires*, because they feed the *batteur* (the threshing-power).

The lower cylinder was nearer to the feeding-man by two inches than the upper, and excluded foreign matter (grit, stone, earth, &c.) In diameter it measured five inches, and was indented by twenty-four grooves of half-inch depth. All was well-made and in beautiful working order. The upper works of the machine were surmounted

by a wooden cover framed in the form of a chimney, to carry off through the barn-roof all the dust.

The quantity which this machine is capable of threshing out and cleaning amounts to ninety sheaves of thirty pounds weight in an hour; but the common allowance is about sixty. A fine harvest, such as that of 1847, brings the full power into work, giving out nine bushels of grain in an hour. In France, where hands are required in many quarters at the same moment, on work so materially affecting the welfare of the tenant as the cultivation of the grape for the vintage, or of the orchards, as in Normandy, for the cider-brewing of the year (there being no beer in the country), no evil accrues from the exclusive use of the threshing-machine. The French labourer is an adept at many a job besides digging, delving, fetching, and carrying. He can repair carts, harrows, ploughs, palings, &c., and native ingenuity enables the poorest to turn their hands to something useful, and, to a certain extent, lucrative. But I question the prudence of laying aside the flail in England. If

the engine will accomplish in eight weeks or three months the work which would have given employment to the father of a family and his younger son through eight months, the occupier must substitute something for two, at least, of those four hands to do ; which, being aware of the necessity of retaining the man, he will do ; but the probability amounts to about a certainty that this will be at the cost of some less valued labourer, who, accordingly, with the young lad, is sent off to look out for employment wherever it can be obtained. This appears to be still, as it was at first, the almost insurmountable objection to threshing-machinery, which, however beautiful in the abstract, viewed as a wonderful triumph of mechanical power, remains a partial benefactor on the farm : which of two parties is the gainer by its one-sided benefit needs no further particularization.*

* The Parisian publishers are keenly sensible of the hazard involved in extensive machinery. In some rooms may be seen fifty printing presses, employing 100 men ; the work of whom might be admirably accomplished by steam-power, to an extent of reduction in the cost of labour, amounting to more than half. But the engine would pauperize eighty of these men, and drive them into open insurrection.

But let us see what Mr. Barclay Allandice, of Ury, in Scotland, has brought forward, very recently, on this subject. He states that he has, for some years, had two *steam-power* threshing-mills on his farm; both, nominally, of six-horse power, but, in reality, far beyond it. He affirms that grain of every description can be threshed by this means at something less than sixpence per quarter; being one-third only of the cost of horse-power: to say nothing of the wear and tear of the horses in this, by far, the severest work for them on the farm. He corroborates these assertions by reference to a threshing-machine for six horses, which he also uses on the premises. His men receive ten shillings weekly wages, and live rent-free; having a tolerable garden, and receiving daily aid from him in vegetables, milk, &c.

His women's wages are five shillings weekly. The day's work is calculated at ten hours, including an hour for breakfast and one for dinner. When the threshing is finished, these labourers go to other work. The horses, however, having toiled through eight hours, do no more.

Mr. Allandice says that water-power is the cheapest; but few homesteads are placed in situations that command sufficient water. As it is, he has no doubt his steam-engine machinery would, if urged, thresh *ten* quarters in an hour!

He then gives the account of expenses in threshing twenty quarters of grain by steam: one man being employed as fireman, engaged for one hour and a half before the steam is up, and for three hours in completing the twenty quarters.

	s.	d.
Fireman, engaged 4½ hours	1	6
One man engaged in feeding (3 hours).....	0	6
Two men forking the straw (3 hours).....	1	0
Three women handing the sheaves (3 hours)	0	9
Two women riddling the grain (3 hours)...	0	6
One woman tramping the straw (3 hours)	0	3
Six cwt. coals, at 10d. per cwt.....	5	0
	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>

Then follows his statement as to threshing the same quantity with six horses; eight hours being occupied in the work.

	£	s.	d.
Three pairs of horses, at 1s. an hour for each pair.....	1	4	0
One man, 8 hours' driving.....	0	1	4
One man feeding, 8 hours.....	0	1	4

Carried forward. 1 6 8

	£.	s.	d.
<i>Brought forward</i>	1	6	8
One man forking the straw	0	1	4
One woman riddling the grain.....	0	0	8
One woman tramping the straw.....	0	0	8
One woman handing the sheaves to } the feeder	0	1	4
	£1	10	8

Mr. A. has proved his point beyond all doubt ; but my opinion remains unshaken as to the detriment likely to accrue to the labourer who has from his childhood handled the flail. It appears, however, that an impression prevails to a very wide extent, that the augmented quantity of produce requiring the human thresher's undivided attention and unintermitting labour, and the necessity for sending grain to market in large loads at a very short notice, when prices rise suddenly, (?) will, at no distant period, render machinery indispensable. If steam be the power adopted under this altered condition of men and things, the wisest appropriation of that mighty and most accommodating agent would be one which might be applied to several purposes besides threshing. This reminds me of an in-

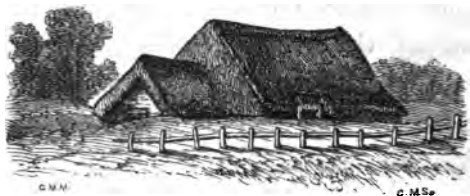
génious mechanic I met some eight-and-thirty years since in the oil-cake mill at Dartford, who had completed a little steam-engine which rocked his child's cradle, cleaned knives, and rang eight bells, according to his will and pleasure.

We may imagine how obligingly a steam-engine at the barnside would slice the roots for cattle in winter, cut chaff, saw wood, *whistle off birds*, boil potatoes for pigs, rice for poultry, roast chestnuts ! &c. &c. &c.

After having examined the threshing-machine, I walked onward into a meadow planted with a few choice apple-trees, in which was a singular building, the appearance of which resembled exactly the state of things which one might imagine would be presented by a barn that had sunk down bodily into the earth, till its roof rested on the ground. The roof was of considerable elevation, about twenty-five feet, thatched.

A hollow way conducted to a small door, which, being opened, admitted us into a sunken chamber wrought out in the clay, having a pitch of twenty-one feet. Its interior space measured

twenty-two feet by seventeen. The sides of this subterranean barn were eight feet high. The



temperature was moderate, and the whole cavity very dry. This was the root-house, for stowing away beet-root, white carrot (for the stock), and turnips, *if any*. It was mentioned as an invaluable preservative of every description of root. (A charming case-mate for dahlias, by-the-bye!) Potatoes would remain sound in it, which above ground could not be deemed secure from one month to another. There was a door at each end; and a window or half-door at the side, for the double purpose of occasional ventilation and reception of produce.

Mons. Beaudouin's protection given to his young trees was of the most effective kind. He might most appropriately have inscribed his fence with that motto of "the most ancient order of

the Thistle"—“*Nemo me impune lacessit.*” *

The tree (I think it was a very superior apple), was not only well bandaged with straw, containing thorns from the quick hedge, but was also guarded by a post armed with formidable long wooden bayonets, which would make even



the most audacious bison of the Ogibawa country hesitate as to the matter of browsing on any exposed part of the tender bark. He would never come to the point!

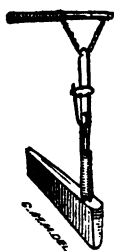
Towards the close of the inspection I went to the *écuries du château*, the private stabling of the mansion.

This was a very handsome and ornamental structure of red brick (painted still more red) and stone: nearly resembling some of the decorated stables of our country seats in the principal counties, but on a miniature scale. The stable for the horses was twenty-four feet long, twenty-one wide, fifteen high. There were two doors, and three windows. The *auge* or manger

* “No one roughly handles me with impunity.”

was of the most substantial construction, being all of wrought Caen stone, three inches thick, nine inches deep. It rested on five dwarf pillars of the same stone, chiselled in the style of early Norman architecture, two feet eight inches high from the ground.

There were six capital loose boxes. The partitioning boards were suspended from a rod running through the length of the building, by line and wooden crook, and iron ring, in a manner I had never before witnessed, but which to such of my readers as are better acquainted with all that relates to Melton and the *mande* than I am, may, perhaps, present nothing new.



Directly the ring is shoved upwards, the wooden crook, being released, springs downward, and separates the lower looped line, to which the heavy partition board, or plank, is attached, from the upper line; and the said board is then removable in an instant, being attached to the manger end of the stall in ship's-rudder-fashion by two hooks.

There was a thorough-bred English bay mare, five years old, seventeen hands in height, for a cabriolet or phaeton. Her name was "Locomotive." There was also a mare, bred from an English horse and an Arabian mare; and another, from an English horse and a German mare. Some of the choicest horses of France come, as I was informed, from Mellerante, in the department of the Orne, ninety miles from Barentin.

There was ample water-shoot supply all round the eaves; of zinc plating—which carried the rain into a large tank. Besides this were drains to carry the stable-liquid into a tank, serving to add store of *engrais* to the large reservoir I have already mentioned. A barrel cart is brought every week to the stable-tank and filled; and thus it conveys to the agricultural compost fresh store of ammoniacal deposit.

The harness-room was spacious and very dry. The harness itself seemed very dirty and ill-kept. The climate renders a stove unnecessary. I counted the hoofs of fourteen wild boars nailed to the wall, and noticed some enormous antlers of

stags. The saddle-post revolved. The saddles were almost twice the size of ours.

And here ended what I considered the business-like work of my day. I had lunched in the bailiff's sitting-room, at three o'clock, on some very excellent household bread, home-made cheese, a freshly-drawn lettuce or two, and, reckless of gout, a *magnum* of Bordeaux wine. At a quarter to eight, p.m., after going over the vegetable garden of the mansion, I was conducted over the ground-floor apartments of the château itself, which, from both front and back, commands an extensive view of the country; and after leaving my card in compliment to the absent proprietor, ordered my horse and gig, and drove to the Barentin station—having borne the burden and heat of as thorough a dog-day of July, as ever did its office in fining down a corpulent, middle-aged gentleman's proportions; and taken as many notes of what eye saw, ear heard, nose smelt, and hand or foot touched, as served, upon subsequent examination, to furnish this, at length, concluded chapter.

CHAPTER V.

I CONSIDER it will be hardly worth while detaining even the reader who delights in Agriculture, by further reports on the French farms. My visit to Beau Repaire, on the other side of Rouen, was neither brief nor hurried; but the chief interest was awakened by a variety of machines, indicating marvellous ingenuity and a high degree of attainments in mechanical science among the tenant farmers of this part of France—the majority of whom are, more or less, in correspondence with the committees of local boards of Agriculture, to whom these inventions and practical improvements are from time to time submitted. Among the latter, I was shown an extirpator, drawn by four horses, and fitted with seven teeth of two feet length. It did its work well; scratching, tearing, cleaving, and clearing

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the dry clods like seven dragons. There was also a very admirable instrument, called a *rayonneur*—not very dissimilar to our seven-box drill—*without* the boxes. This was fitted with a frame, pierced by six holes, for the insertion of as many teeth, shaped like a spear-point, curved. It was drawn by one horse, to make furrows ; over which, the hand-barrow drill would run with seed. There was also a machine for ascertaining the several sizes of grains in a quarter of wheat. This contained a cylinder of wire meshes, revolving by means of a wynch, fitted with a box, similar to a hand coffee-mill. The upper part, *i. e.* the base of this cylinder, or, I should more properly call it, cone of wire, let fall the very smallest grains of wheat into a suspended piece of sacking underneath : the middle part let out the middling-sized ; the lowest, or apex end, let through the largest, which gravitated downward towards that end ;—the revolving sieve being fixed on a gentle slant.

The *Tourne Oreille* plough of the Pays de Caux was an uncouth engine, but seldom requiring more than two horses. The wheels were of twenty-four

inches diameter; the tier circle almost two inches in depth, like the wheels of a phaeton. As I said before, this kind of plough is hardly ever used except on the hill-sides.

Normandy being, like our Somersetshire, the chief apple district, the tenants are cider brewers to a great extent. A moderate specimen of this produce was exhibited to me at Beau Repaire. There were eight casks, or *tonneaux*, the very wood of the largest of which had cost 4*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* It contained 800 gallons, English measure; the one next to it held 600; the next 375. The largest was six feet six inches long, and eighteen in girth. The hoops (*cercles*) were of chesnut wood; the staves of oak. The consumption of cider on this farm of 114 acres, amounts to about 3,000 gallons, and each boarded servant is allowed three gallons a day.

I have already specified the rate of wages paid to farm servants in Chapter IV. Vol. I.; I will now proceed to mention some few particulars which it would ill become me to underrate even in my cursory and unpretending review of what fell under my ocular observation, or met my ear while con-

templating the subject of agriculture in France, and the progress of chemistry as applied in that country to the purposes of cultivation.

Foremost among the chemical agents most earnestly recommended by men of science, who have devoted their time and attention to the subject, is sea-salt (*chlorure sodique*). Virgil and Cato have been quoted in support of the free use of this ingredient: the former, however, merely alludes to the practice of the Roman dairymen keeping-clotted cream through the winter by the infusion of a small quantity of salt. The savages of America are stated to have made mention to travellers of the vast abundance of sheep wherever saline lakes were situate. Bernard Palissy, in his "Discours admirable de la Nature des Eaux et Fontaines, des Métaux, des Sols, des Salines, des Pierres, des Terres," &c. (published in the reign of our Queen Elizabeth), supported at great length the theory of salt manure. In this argument he was followed by Lord Bacon in 1626, who improved his garden plots with it; by Sir Hugh Platt and by Frederick Offman in 1742, who strongly advocated its use among cattle. Girardin

of Rouen, already mentioned, urges the use of salt as an *engrais minéral* of powerful efficacy, and points to the common practice of farmers on the sea-coast heaping up sea-weed* in vast quantities for mending the soil. In fact, the sole obstacle to its universal use as a manure in France lies in the restraint laid thereupon by the duty, the total repeal of which Mons. De Mesmay, the talented representative of the Department of Doubs, has, in several sessions of the French Parliament, endeavoured to obtain by appealing to the Minister with arguments of incontrovertible truth, and specially with reference to the beneficial results that have followed the total repeal of the salt duty in England.

While these sheets have been in preparation for press, I have dispatched to Auguste de Mesmay some valuable statistical details on this subject, supplied to me from Droitwich and London, as *matériel* for his campaign in the present session of the Chambers. M. de Mesmay is the translator of Mr. Cuthbert Johnson's treatise, published a few years since, on the advantages of

* As may be seen throughout our Isle of Thanet.

salt, in connection with seeds and stock. The earliest opposition to M. de Mesmay's measure was grounded on an assertion that the abolition of the duty in England had not tended to increase the consumption. The direct reverse is the fact; the potteries, glass-works, and fields in myriads of farms (where salt is being scattered at a cost of only seven shillings a ton) attest the futility of such declarations. M. Gay Lussac, in the House of Peers, repudiated the notion of abolishing the duties on salt, as affecting industry, not to mention that the ingredient itself was of a very questionable nature as a manure; the King's speech, however, at the opening of the Chambers, intimated the intentions of government as to the long sought reduction of the *gabelle* (salt-tax); and the measure hitherto repudiated will, in all probability, be carried in the course of the present session.

On the farm at Beau Repaire, I ascertained that salt had been used very extensively, and with the happiest possible effect. Guano is here and there used by the wealthier proprietors, but the cost of importation forbids its use among the

generality of farmers. The French experiment-
alists, having heard of vast quantities of this ante-
diluvian excrement (as M. Bidard terms it),
landed at Liverpool, from the southern coast
of Africa, exactly corresponding in quality with
that of America, and comprising pure ammonia,
saline and organic matters, phosphates of lime,
magnesia and potass, silica, or sand, sulphate and
muriate of potass, and simple water, instituted
inquiries into the feasibility of introducing the
new manure interchangeably with the common
top-dressings. It transpired, however, that,
though a ton of the African guano cost at
Liverpool something less than 8*l.*, while the
American article was not attainable for less than
10*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, the freight from Liverpool to Nor-
mandy, at 12*s.* 6*d.* a ton, with commission, and
some other items of charge, combined with the
duty which would, to a certainty, be levied on every
load, must raise the price of guano, when delivered
into the importer's premises in Rouen, to 9*s.* 2*d.*
the hundred-weight; which is an expense alto-
gether beyond the abilities of the occupiers of
land to encounter. The price of the finest pale

Peruvian guano is from 10*l.* to 11*l.* 10*s.* the ton. The lowest price in the market is that charged for Saldanha Bay guano (4*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.*).

In the face of these costly imports, the tally of the *vacher*, (the cow-house keeper,) who books every item of *returns*, with most scrupulous accuracy, begins to tell with considerable force of persuasiveness ; sufficient to counteract all disappointment in the guano speculation. The whole annual value of the manure of one of his Cotentine cows, kept in good condition, is ascertained as follows :—The solid manure, free from litter, amounts to about twenty-eight pounds in twenty-four hours. In six weeks, this would amount to a ton, which would, on analysis, (as Liebig states,) be found to contain twelve-pounds-and-a-half of nitrogen, and twenty-five of phosphates of lime and magnesia ; and, therefore, is better than 100 pounds of the Ichaboe guano. In a year, this *solid* manure is equivalent to 800 weight of that article, or to 8*l.* in money, if the Ichaboe guano be purchaseable, *even at 8*l.* a ton.* The *liquid* manure, exceeding twenty-seven pounds *per diem*, will realize 10,000 pounds'

weight in the year, yielding forty-one pounds of nitrogen, and 370 pounds of salts of potass. This quantity of nitrogen, added to the twenty-pounds contained in the ammonia, brought down by the rain annually to each acre, is enough for two acres of wheat, and may be considered equal to that contained in $600\frac{1}{2}$ weight of Ichaboe guano, *i. e.* is equal to 2*l.* 12*s.* in money. Add to this, the 370 pounds of the salts of potass, at 2*d.* a pound, which is equal to 3*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, and the result is, that these combined items make the annual value of a cow amount to 8*l.* a-year, when compared with the price and effects of Ichaboe guano.

Sea-weed, sand, and fish, are freely used upon the coast. Soot and coal-ash also; but there is so little of the latter in France, that it is seldom seen. The tenants, whose occupations lie within easy distance of towns, avail themselves of the dung of the stables; but the proportion of supply is insignificant, compared with that in our country. All the chemists of France are at work on behalf of the agricultural community, and the contemplated establishment of agricultural col-

leges in several districts of the country, will, to a certainty, introduce a vast amount of scientific improvement into every branch of practical farming. May this prove the case in our own land. We cannot, henceforth, afford to dispense with such resources.

It is evident, moreover, that unintermitting exertions are being put forth for the amelioration of the breed of cattle. English horses, bulls, and rams, as also mares, cows, and ewes, from this country, are commonly to be seen in every other farm of upwards of 100 acres ; so that our Durham is superseding the Cotentine. The Sussex South-down sheep may also be seen here and there ; and several Norman landowners have purchased largely out of Romney marshes. It was gratifying to hear them speak in rapturous praise of all and everything appertaining to English farming. They consider us the world's great teachers of the art of tillage, and the supreme judges of stock, and of whatever tends to develop the resources of nature ; it being admitted, in all directions, that wherever the British systems have been imitated most faithfully, the

estate and everything upon it has thrived in proportion. Alexandre Bille's threshing-machine, constructed on the plan of our Scotch Mickle's, gained great credit. He had visited England, year after year, sparing neither *démarches* ou *dépenses** in his efforts to introduce our most recent improvements into the French engine, though the cost amounted to 60%.

It is the practice of the Agricultural Association Committees in France to send out scrutineers or commissioners of inspection, whose report is received, (some weeks before their great annual meeting,) on the general state of the farms of the locality. Representations are laid before the committee relative to the modes of cultivation, the neatness or slovenliness, improvement or deterioration of property,—on the success or failure of certain experiments,—on the result of certain crosses of breed, or of crops raised in hitherto impracticable territory, &c. The committee are thus enabled to obtain a panoramic view, as it were, of the several farms, and publish the most interesting details. The utmost cordiality per-

* Enterprise or expense.

vades these communities: they comprehend owners and occupiers in equal proportions, and elicit such display of zeal, ingenuity, and patriotic ardour as reflects honour on the nation. It is usual for seven or eight, sometimes ten or twelve gentlemen farmers, tenants, chemists, and medical practitioners, to assemble at each other's houses twice or three times in a month, for the purpose of giving and receiving information on the various experiments in progress through the current season: one reports the course of tilth he has adopted over a certain extent of land, stating on paper the seed he has sown, and how; another makes known the efficacy of this or that species of manure, or the result of certain feed for stock; another brings either a drawing or a well-made model of any improvement in farming implements. Then the best informed in our language introduces a pamphlet from our country, or a newspaper report of some of our principal agricultural association meetings; translating any very interesting passages for the edification of the company. In this rational and most praiseworthy manner, a continual interchange of knowledge is

maintained to the vast advantage of the farmer, and, through him, of the community at large. These meetings are held at least twice in a month ; and that they are for despatch of business and practical purposes is clearly evinced by their printed reports drawn up by the ablest penmen of the numbers assembled. I was looking through one of these reports a few days since, dated August 18th, 1846. The following subjects came under consideration :—A new cradle for the necks of cows, to prevent their browsing on young trees, or gnawing bark, or jumping or breaking through hedges ; an improvement in draining and irrigation ; a statistical report of the quality and quantity of the wheat-crop of 1846 in the districts of Rouen, Yvetôt, and Neufchâtel ; a treatise on the potato disease—a committee hereupon being formed to watch the said disease in every part of the district ; a subscription towards the encouragement of horse-races, as tending to improve the breed of horses.

These five points occupied one of these meetings for about four hours. The members arrive and depart without giving a thought to eating or

drinking. Nothing in the way of refreshment is expected or offered ; and no time is lost.

My agricultural readers will be of opinion that this is creditable to their brother farmers across the water ; and, were I one of the craft, I should be only too happy to introduce, from time to time, in this country, not, indeed, a specimen of French growth, but of French *growers*. Men of the enlarged intellect and valuable experience of Du Breuil, Beaudouin, Fauchet, De Moy, Grenet, Barbet, Laguette, and such other, would grace any of the leading agricultural committees in Great Britain ; and, with the courtesy and high breeding which manifests itself so pleasingly in the educated classes of their nation, would, probably, communicate some of the most useful and interesting facts, while seeming to be deferentially intent on receiving information.

I shall close the subject of farming by laying before my readers a summary of their proceedings in the award of premium and prizes, which will appropriately follow an extract from two reports of the meetings of the Agricultural Association (*Concours de la Société d'Agriculture pra-*

tique) of Valmont, on September 15th, 1846, its ninth anniversary, and that of the Arrondissement of Neuchâtel, four years previously.

We will consider the latter first, considering the priority of date.

I. The first subject to which the Committee of Inquiry and Inspection (*Commission des Recherches*) gave their attention was that of the courses of cropping and laying out of farms. The gold medal of honour was awarded to M. Mabire, a landowner of Neuchâtel, who had farmed sixty acres of arable land without horses. He employed two yoke of oxen only. He had adopted the four-year tilth, laying down fifteen acres in potatoes, barley, and other secondary crop; fifteen in oats; fifteen in red and white clover; fifteen in wheat. His land would not bear carrot or beetroot. He was considered one of the ablest agriculturists of the district. He had introduced the Russian red wheat and Neapolitan spring-wheat; had used the drill of Hugues for sowing, Valcourt's harrow, and Rozay's plough, which, through him, became popular in the neighbourhood. M. Mabire's crops ex-

ceeded by a third those of his neighbours. He had also established a pasture for bullocks, at a place called Rouelle. This he called *la bouverie*. Here he fattened beasts. He likewise hired a farm at Etables, near Arques; but, being out of the district of Neufchâtel, it did not fall within the jurisdiction of the commissioners of inspection. The two latter occupations were, therefore, mentioned merely to indicate the enterprising activity of M. Mabire.

A silver medal to Mons. Tabur, the owner of a small property at Mesnières, in the district of Neufchâtel, who had grubbed up 120 acres of the forest of Halley, on which tract he had established a farm, and built some remarkably handsome barns, granaries, cowhouses, and sheep-houses, in red brick, with slated roofs, all arranged most admirably. He had annexed to the main barn a threshing-machine, but the commissioners of inquiry regretted that the horse-gear work outside had not been covered with the usual circular roof, instead of being left exposed

to the weather. He had excavated capital cellars under the barns, excellently well contrived to keep roots perfectly dry; being ventilated by ingenious air-holes, &c. His *bergeries* (sheep-houses) were fitted up with removeable racks, which might be detached instantly, in case of his wishing to introduce any cows into these buildings. Mons. Tabur had planned his tillage on the six-year tilth: one sixth to be in roots, potatoes, and carrots; a sixth in oats; another in cole-seed; the next in clover; the remaining sixth in wheat.

He had supplied himself with the latest improvements in all the machinery and implements, and had himself improved Monsieur Dombasle's plough, (on the model of Finlayson's,) by attaching to the share a lateral support or stay, by means of which the most stubborn roots might be cut asunder. Towards the formation of a flock, he had bought a ram and four ewes of the long-wooled sheep from Newcastle.

The inspectors feel the liveliest interest in M. Tabur's undertaking; the problem being this, whether he will find, in due course of time, that

this new farm, with all its costly buildings, will prove as sure a source of revenue to him as the woods had been which his enterprising courage had led him to extirpate in favour of a farm on their site.

- Silver medal to Mons. Havet, senior, a small landowner of Bures, who has recently erected some farm-buildings on a very handsome scale, with highly judicious arrangements. The inspectors regret he did not construct tanks for the *run* from the stables, &c., and annex a permanent threshing-machine to the barns which are of such a spacious extent; he has formed cellars, however, which must prove eminently serviceable for the preservation of roots under these barns. Mons. H. has extensively manured his pasture lands, and got them into excellent condition, and constructed flood-gates in various places for the irrigation of his meadows.

Silver medal to Mons. Gautier, a small occupier of Saint Pierre des Jonquières, who has laid down in pasture twenty acres of arable land, and greatly improved his original grazing land. His fields

under the plough are farmed on the four-year tilth.

The Society decrees a vote of commendation to Mons. l'Abbé Arson, a priest holding an appointment in the establishment of M. l'Abbé Eudes, at Mesnières, as superintendent of the operations conducted on the premises in respect of agricultural study. He has adopted the five-year tilth on thirty-six acres, agreeably to the nature of the soil, which appear to be eminently well adapted for luzerne.

Also to M. Havet, junior, of Bures, who farms about eight or nine acres on the four-year tilth. He has succeeded, through good management, in materially improving a tract of chalky land, by spreading over it a certain proportion of white clay or potters' earth.

Also to Mons. le Normand, tenant farmer at Bradiancourt, who has adopted the four-year tilth. Notwithstanding the severe drought, his crops of oats were beyond all comparison superior to any in his district ; which the judges attribute to the four-year tilth. He has also lopped his trees in a very scientific manner, and con-

verted a tract of originally very bad pasture into excellent grazing land. Uses Rozay's plough.

Also to Mons. d'Haussez, land-owner, of St. Saëns, who cultivates three-and-thirty acres of land, which he has recently cleared from adjacent forest territory. He has also been eminently successful in replenishing such portions of woodland as required young trees, by pegging down the most pliant branches into the ground, and increasing the general growth by layers; and has also invented an excellent dressing for turfs, or ornamental lawns, composed of blood and chalk.

This is followed up by *forty-three* further cases of honourable mention, and gold and silver medals, to owners and occupiers who had signalized themselves by talent, enterprise, and perseverance, in the

1. Conversion of Arable Land into Pasture.
2. Improvement of Pasture.
3. Erection and judicious Arrangement of Farm-buildings.
4. Planting of Apple Orchards.
5. Planting of Forest Trees and Replenishment of Wood.
6. Bringing of Barren Land into Cultivation.
7. Breeding of Horses.
8. Fattening of Sheep.

(Mons. Pierre Rouland, owner, at Bosc-Beranger, had exhibited a very beautiful flock of 200 remarkably fat sheep. The silver medal.)

9. Acquisition of entire Horses of very superior breed.

10. Rearing and Care of Cows and Pigs.

(Mons. Pascal Anquetin, tenant, farmer of St. Clair, near Gournay, has 57 cows, 25 of which were reared on his farm. They are of Flemish race. He holds 32 acres of arable land.

Mons. Anquetin has made 1200 dozens of cream-cheeses in *a week*.

Mons. de Villeneuve has reared twelve very fine Cotentine cows, and fattened thirty hogs.

The dairy is under the personal superintendence of Madame de Villeneuve. The silver medal.)

11. Breeding and Maintenance of Bulls.

12. Making of Butter and Cheese.

(Mons. Taburet, land-owner of Gaille Fontaine, in the Canton of Forges, has 45 cows, producing 274 pounds of butter every week. The silver medal.)

(Mons. Delie, tenant-farmer of Massy, makes

6000 cream cheeses every week. The silver medal.)

(Madame Cauchois, widow, holding a dairy-farm at Bures, makes a celebrated cheese called *à tout bien*, at the rate of 2000 every week. Her dairy and cheese-rooms are admirably kept. The bronze medal.)

13. The Fattening of Oxen.

(Messrs. Nantier and Delaistre have been particularly successful with their beasts, many of which have been ascertained to weigh from 2200 to 2500 pounds.)

(Mons. Le Long of Rouvray, has fattened 70 oxen yearly for a considerable period.

Madame Long superintends twenty-five beautiful cows, and keeps an excellent dairy.)*

Then follow the rewards bestowed at the annual meeting on farm-servants of either sex.

I will annex a translation of the address prefixed to the Inspecting Visitors' Report to the Committee on this head.

“ It now remains for us, gentlemen, to reward a class of merit to which more than ordinary

* Query:—May not this be some Mr. and Mrs. Long, *ci-devant* of England ?

importance is attached, inasmuch as it bears relation to those qualities which, above all other, exhibit all that is most dignified in man's nature, —namely, probity of morals, devoted fidelity in the discharge of bounden duties, and intelligence in accomplishing the tasks prescribed by those duties. You will readily infer that we herein allude to the honourable distinction it is proposed that we should confer on the long and faithful services of domestics who, in their individual persons, are deeply interested and concerned in the progress of agriculture.

“ The Society entertain an opinion that the meritorious female servants of the district of Bray have exercised such important influence on the farms of that locality, as to render it your committee's paramount duty to begin by testifying their favourable opinion towards those women who, by their long, loyal, and faithful services, have so materially assisted their employers in the arduous exertions to which farms held in that locality had subjected them. This same opinion is equally applicable to the young men who have held situations in that district.

“ There are also several wagoners, or principal ploughmen, and shepherds, whose names are entitled to distinction.”

REWARDS.

The Society has this year selected out of the whole number of servants, recommended to their committee, as deserving of favourable notice, ten of the oldest.

To each of the ten have, accordingly, been presented a bronze medal, with his or her name engraved thereon, and a small sum of money. Their names are as follows :—

Marguerite Frère, forty years in the employ of Mons. Samson, farmer, at Bonelle, in the Canton of Neuchâtel. Bronze medal and seventy francs (2*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*)

Adelaide Lemercier, thirty years in the service of Mons. Romain de Croutelles, at Bures. Bronze medal and sixty francs (2*l.* 10*s.*)

Suzanne Mazure, twenty-nine years servant to Mons. Benard, at Argueil. A bronze medal and 2*l.* 10*s.*

Elizabeth Dennequin, servant to Madame

Lainè, at Mauquenchy, during the last two years, after having, for twenty-nine years previously, lived in the service of widow Moinet, lately deceased. Bronze medal; 2*l.* 10*s.*

Francoise Mainnemare, servant for twenty-eight years in the establishment of M. Aubert, at Bosc Menil. 2*l.* 10*s.*

Louis Vattier, general labourer on the homestead of Mons. Tettelin's farm at Bosc Geffroi, for thirty-seven years. Bronze medal and 2*l.* 10*s.*

Antoine Le Vaillant, general labourer on the homestead of Mons. Le Long, at Rouvray, for forty-two years. Bronze medal and 2*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

Louis Roisse, general labourer on the homestead of Messrs. Nantier and Delaistre's farm, during thirty-five years. Bronze medal and 2*l.* 10*s.*

J. Bourguignon, head ploughman to Mons. Ancelin, farmer of Aumale, for thirty-two years. Bronze medal and 2*l.* 10*s.*

H. Michel, of Bures, shepherd to Mons. Tettelin, of Bosc Geoffroi, for thirty years. Bronze medal and 2*l.* 10*s.*

AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION'S MEETING AT
VALMONT.

On the 15th of September, 1846, the members of this society celebrated the ninth anniversary of their institution by a brilliant assemblage of the friends, patrons, and subscribers, at a *fête champêtre* at Fauville, to which an immense concourse of all the principal families of the neighbourhood, assembling from every quarter however remote, lent considerable *éclat*.

Messrs. Barbet and Anisson Duperron, peers of France, Messrs. Consture, *député*,* Fromant, sub-prefect of Yvetôt, Fouet, member of the general council, Grenet, counsellor of the prefecture, De Moy, president of the Central Board of Agriculture, Baudouin,† president of the Agricultural Committee of Pavilly, and a large number of delegates from the various agricultural associations and scientific institutions of the department, were observed to take an active part in the proceedings. The whole assembly of the above-named individuals, and of the friends of

* Member of the Lower House.

† My worthy cultivator of Château des Vieux.

agriculture who rallied around them on this occasion, met in the principal apartment of the town-hall, and, having formed into procession, went forth in the direction of the Fair field, preceded by the brigades of *gendarmerie* (mounted military police), by the band of the regiment of National Guards, and the fire brigade, (sappers and miners,) of Fauville.

The committeemen appointed to inspect and act as judges, began their duties by examining the Show of beasts, among which were several Durham bulls, whose beautiful proportions and features elicited unanimous praise. Several beasts were exhibited which had been bred through the introduction of the said English cattle, and which appeared to be transmitting the excellences of their progenitors. The commissioners bestowed high eulogium also on several native bulls and cows.

Several stallions of singular beauty were led along the Fair fields; but the mares and foals displayed on the occasion only served to mark the degeneracy of our Cauchoise breed, which once enjoyed such pre-eminence.

The rams gave far greater satisfaction. Several Anglo-merino sheep were penned, whose shape and fleece were much admired, and seemed to hold out a fair promise of vast improvement in that description of stock in France. These animals were presented to the society by the minister of the Board of Trade and Agriculture.

The inspection of stock being terminated, the company moved off in the direction of the ploughing-field, where seventeen chief ploughmen* (head-wagoners) distinguished themselves by their intelligence and dexterity.

This was the largest number of teams that had yet been seen since the formation of the society; and the work was done in a far more masterly style than had yet been witnessed, whether in respect of precision in striking the furrows, or good ploughmanship in management of the horses.†

This contest being concluded, the procession returned to Fauville, where, in the centre of the

* "Charretiers."

† Let it be remembered that *no boy is in attendance.*

market-place, an alcove (or large ornamented marquee) had been raised for the accommodation of all the principal personages present, and where the Sub-Prefect, and Mons. Barbet, the President, addressed the meeting in speeches which drew forth shouts of enthusiastic applause. Afterwards, Mons. Darcel read the report of the General Commissioners for the inspection of the farms included in the society's range of influence. Upon which followed the distribution of honours and rewards.

The first prize for extensive improvement of farms was presented to Mons. Achille Houdeville, farmer, holding 120 acres at St. Denis d'Aclon. (The gold medal and eighty francs, 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*)

The second to Mons. Pierre F. Laguette, holding 115 acres at St. Riquier. (Gold medal, and 2*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*)

The small farms' prize was given, 1. to Mons. Lemonnier, of Sassetot—eighty-four acres. (Gold medal.)

2. To Mons. Lemèle, of Fauville—thirty two acres. (Lesser gold medal.)

And honourable mention was made of Mons.

Roquigny, of Malleville; of Mons. Banville, of Bosville; and Mons. Anquetil, of Venesville.

Prizes and complimentary addresses were also awarded to thirty-six individuals for success in

1. Agricultural Experiments.
2. Keeping a large number of Beasts.
3. Compounding good Manure.
4. Rearing Ewes.
5. Keeping up large flocks of Sheep, and more than a usual number of Bulls, Bullocks, and Cart Horses.

A certain Monsieur St. Requier, farmer, of Angerville la Martel, received a gold medal for having purchased a bull of great celebrity, bearing the classical name of "Horace."

6. For Improvements in Agricultural Implements.

Two prizes were awarded on account of the ploughing. The first, a bronze medal, and a cheque, authorizing him to invest in his name the sum of fifty francs (2*l.* 1*s.* 8*d*) at the savings' bank, to Pierre Paumier, in the employ of Mons. St. Leger, of Cléville.

The second, a bronze medal, and cheque for 1*l.* 5*s.*, to Matthieu Saturnin, in the employ of Mons. Monnevu, of Ancourteville.

Then came the *prix de moralité* (rewards of good conduct).

To Romain Capiou, twenty-two years shepherd on the farm of M. Bouic, farmer, of Malleville les grés, the bronze medal and cheque for 2*l.* 10*s.*

To Jean Suard, principal wagoner to Mons. Anquetil, farmer, of Angiens, for twenty-six years last past, bronze medal and cheque for 2*l.* 10*s.*

To Sénateur Camas, twenty-three years general labourer on the homestead of Mons. Jouen's farm, at Tiétreville, bronze medal and 2*l.* 10*s.*

To Marianne Goddeville, female servant in the employ of Mons. Tercinier, farmer, of Bourville, during forty-five years, bronze medal and cheque for 2*l.* 10*s.*

The distribution of these richly-earned marks of distinction closed the business of the day, after which one hundred and forty of the assembly sat down to a handsome dinner, followed, as night drew on, by a display of fireworks, dancing, and other amusements for the labouring classes and common people, and by a brilliant ball and assembly of the gentry in the town.

CHAPTER VI.

I MIGHT leave the two preceding chapters to speak for themselves without comment of mine ; nor shall I offer more than a few passing observations on the facts they develope, believing that enough has been shewn to evince that these people are in no particular unworthy to be compared with our own, in respect of those institutions whose tendency is to promote the welfare of their country through that of agriculture. That substantial basis of good government and of national prosperity, the landed interest, has been for upwards of half a century undermined in France by the abolition of the right of primogeniture ; the tendency of which measure has been to discourage proprietors from investing largely in real estate, either by purchases or improvements, in a country where sixty per cent of its territory may

change hands in the course of ten years, and the capital of 10,000*l.* enjoyed by one possessor, as a life-interest, may be transferred at his demise to three or four joint heirs, irrespectively of any wish or will of his own. Nevertheless, the continual partitioning of land which, year after year, constitutes new owners of real property, however insignificant in extent, (some *parcelles* comprising only a few square yards !) creates a necessity for knowledge on agricultural matters, and calls forth all the energies and inventiveness of the rising generation towards the improvement of systems and the enlargement of such resources as are likely to turn even these infinitesimal portions of an hereditary estate to the best possible account. He, therefore, who can make his pound gain ten pounds by pursuing steadily the most approved methods of cultivation, becomes not only an individual gainer, or the founder of a new family fortune, but a benefactor to the commonwealth, and a votary of good order and public peace ; in proportion as his stake in the country increases, and his hopes of independence strengthen. And this I take to be the spring of impulse upon

which, now that "the din of war is past," so many small proprietors and occupiers have addressed themselves sedulously to the cultivation of that soil, from which, *volentes volentes*, they are compelled to eke out a portion, at least, of their yearly maintenance. Not a doubt can be entertained that the establishment of agricultural associations in England originated kindred institutions in France:—with what degree of emulation and success I leave my readers to infer from the memoranda I have ventured to submit to public perusal. For my part, I look upon such memorials with unqualified delight, and, as

"One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin," so, when the English owner or occupier stands upon French soil and finds a long summer's day ended ere he has ceased to compare notes with his foreign brother agriculturist, the "thousand heavy times" of bygone hostility are forgotten in the generous rivalry of plough and harrow, drill and drainage:—*Arcades ambo*, the two experimentalists interchange opinions, teach and learn, give and take, with one common and noble object; the Briton, nevertheless, feeling

an inch the taller of the two, as he reflects on his national privileges, (which, let me add, are his national blessings;) and as he beholds proof upon proof of the certainty that, under the depressing influence of the prevailing law of inheritance, the French cultivator cannot possibly encroach on the British market, or paralyse the efforts of our sturdy husbandmen, either by superabundant produce or supereminent exemptions. I am aware that most people believe the French pay scarcely any rates or taxes; they are even envied as a people paying no tithes; they are described as paymasters that can get labourers to "work for next to nothing." Enough has been already stated in these pages to disabuse the reader of any erroneous impression on the latter point; but I may, probably, add a few words even on that subject. As to taxation, it has increased within the last seventeen years from forty to sixty millions per annum. The land-tax of one sixth of the rent per acre, is paid by eleven million proprietors. The owner and occupier alike are taxed for the support of the poor; and out of thirty-five millions of popu-

lation, twenty-five millions are landed proprietors. This, as was before explained, arises from the dispersion and subdivision of property which followed the sale of the church-lands and emigrants' estates at the period of the great Revolution, and the law of equal succession.

Now the population of the towns in which a system of relief of the poor is thoroughly organized, amounts to 3,500,000 souls; and the cost of the relief annually distributed is upwards of 2,000,000*l.* sterling.

Let us again consider the proportion of the population receiving relief. In Normandy, for instance, out of a population of 45,000 in Caen, upwards of 9,000 are absolute paupers. The instructions sent into the towns by the Minister of the Interior for the rates to be levied by assessment (*cotisation*), are as cogent as any that came from our Poor Law Commissioners in the earliest days of the new law. So also at Havre de Grace, out of 32,000, 7,200 persons received relief from the rate. The fact is, there are upwards of 50,000 collectors in France for the direct taxes alone; the indirect, not including the Excise, employ nearly

the same number. Besides all these, there are controllers, verifiers, inspectors, and a fiscal army of rate-gatherers, quite imposing enough to undeceive any foreigner as to the common persuasion that "France is an untaxed country."

As to the tithes, too. True it is, the Clergy are paid by the State, but out of what fund? from indirect rates levied on every housekeeper in the land, without favour or exception; and as to our Church-rates, I ascertained that as many as four payments in one year are occasionally made by such housekeepers as enjoy a competence, even in the villages, towards the sustentation of the fabric of the Church, and of the services and officers thereof; not indeed compulsorily, but on such application to conscience and generosity as renders it a very difficult matter to evade the appeal.

The *impôts*, imposts, or duties, on articles of trade and consumption, and even on the trades themselves, are numerous. A window-tax is levied in France, and one on doors and archways. Fees on registration, stamps, and licences, patents and exemptions, compel men of all classes to put their hands into their pockets; and

it is as common to hear of the "burdens on the land" across the straits of Calais, as in the most grumbling county of England: which, considering the outlay on a standing army of 340,000 men;—on the great fortifications, on the Algerian colony, and the military and naval, civil and ecclesiastical pay-receivers of France, is, perhaps, not so preposterous as some careless thinkers and speakers would consider it; if we concede to our foreign neighbours, all the benefit of the received adage, that they who wear the tight shoe can best tell where it pinches. In illustration of this point, I would invite the reader's attention to the following authentic particulars, supplied to me by a highly intelligent occupier of land in Normandy—one of the many French agriculturists, whose attainments qualify them for places of distinction in the internal government of their country, as well as for the most scientific range of cultivation of its soil.

The taxes levied on the farmers may be classed under two denominations; direct and indirect.

The direct includes a rate on houses and landed property. (*L'Impôt Foncier.*)

This presses more than any other on the tenant, and for this reason : that though it is a land-owner's tax and not a tenant's, the latter, in point of fact, actually pays it. For, when an owner lets his farm, instead of keeping it in hand, he shapes the rent, so as to derive, what he considers, a satisfactory interest on the capital invested in the land ; and to this he adds the full amount of the burdens laid on that land.

If the owner take upon himself those imposts, he annexes so much the more of rent. The usual practice is, for the tenant to hire the farm subject to the said rates.

The tenant, accordingly, has to cash up on demand of the collector who calls for payment of the rate levied on his occupation by an assessment which claims, on the part of the State, from a sixth to an eighth part of the annual value of the rural property held by him. For instance, a small farm of 40*l.* a-year pays on the *impôt foncier*, 6*l.* 5*s.*

This is a higher ratio of assessment than that observed in towns ; but the Government lays down this doctrine as a principle,—that although landed

estate seldom realizes more than two and a-half or three per cent. to the owner, the value is more certain, (as *we* should say, more truly *real* estate,) and less exposed to fluctuation and danger than property in towns. Thus, a house worth 800*l.*, is assessed in property-tax to the amount of 2*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, on its computed annual returns on 800*l.* at five per cent.

The peculiar hardships to which the tenant of a farm is subjected by this form of property-tax, is that of being called upon to pay it *before* the year's crops are taken.

It must happen, occasionally, that he has to pay on the State's computation of value, one-third of which, from atmospherical or other influences, he may not in harvest season realize. This would be considered no light hardship in England.

Besides this form of Property-tax, there is one called the *impôt personnel*; somewhat resembling the old poll-tax, or a contribution levied on every individual in the kingdom. The farmer pays it in the shape of a fine, in lieu of three days' labour on the highways.

Reckoning the commonest labourer's wages at one franc fifty centimes a day, (which would be worth ten shillings a-week in England,) the tenant is called upon to pay 3*s.* 9*d.*

There is also a tax on windows and on doors : one franc (tenpence) being paid on every door and window in the dwelling. Gateways are charged at 6*s.* 1½*d.*

Besides this, there is a tax on all furniture, which is levied thus:—Supposing that a house will let (furnished) at the rate of 200*l.* a-year, the owner of such house is called on to pay a penny-three-farthings on every hundred of francs in such rent. Accordingly, the tax in such case is seven shillings. But if the dwelling-house be let out in various lots or apartments, a distinct rate is levied on the *revenu présumé* of each apartment ; which makes the payment considerably higher. This may be easily inferred from the fact that a house (like a farm) which might be hired for 200*l.* a-year, furnished, would yield to the owner, if let to six or seven lodgers, nearly double. This tax operates similarly, whether the house be let or not. The possessor of the

furniture must pay 3s. 6d. on every 100l. worth of furniture. Thus, a gentleman surrounded by 1,000l. worth of furniture pays 1l. 15s. yearly.

Moreover, there is a peculiar impost, designated the *Prestation en Nature*, which may be described as tenant's service in kind. This is sometimes very disagreeable in its mode of operation. It calls upon the tenant to supply wagons and horses on a certain number of days in the year, for the purpose of carting stone, chalk, earth, gravel, &c., for the cantonniers, who contract to keep up the several roads, bridges, and *voies de communication*. If the tenant be not forthcoming with his teams, he must pay down the full value of such aid to the government officer, on whom it devolves to call upon him for such *prestation*.

The value of this supply is estimated at 2,000,000l. sterling, yearly, throughout France.

There are some farmers who are liable to the *Impôt des Patentes*. This is somewhat resembling our license system.

If the tenant, for instance, not only fattens

stock, but likewise kills and sells on the farm so as to render a part of the premises equivalent to a butcher's shop or a poulterer's, or if he keep a warehouse for the sale of seeds or roots, he must take out a license as dealer in such.

He is equally liable if he hold a cattle-market on the premises.

An infinitesimal form of per centage is raised on behalf of claims preferred by the Exchequer for the general needs of the nation. This is called the *Impôt des Centimes Nationaux*.

A similar rate is enforced for the general needs of the *Departemens*, or Divisions; and also for the *Communes*, or Subdivisions of *Departemens*.

And these ratings are of two kinds, ordinary and extraordinary: their collective amount, however, is not oppressive in its influence.

The duties called *Droits d'Enregistrement* and Stamp Duties are, in effect, a tax on the wages of industry. They are graduated according to the amount of rent paid, and to the value of the long or short lease; and, in fact, there is not a position of tenure in which the farmer finds himself exempt from various tax-gatherers.

Independently of these taxes, there are heavy duties on certain classes of provision: on drink of all kinds, sugar, tobacco, salt, &c.; which duties, like the direct taxes, are always liable to increase, accordingly as the division in which the farmer lives may happen to be called on for higher contingents towards the national revenue.

There are collections made from house to house, according to exigency, for the distressed poor. There are no benefit clubs, burial societies, or institutions of that nature in the parishes; consequently, those who have a competency are obliged to sustain those who are in absolute want.

When the list of paupers in a village is large, the contributions expected at the hands of the tenant are proportionate. So that, in fact, he pays voluntarily a poor-rate: so far, indeed, voluntarily, and no further,—that he had rather pay his *quota* than live amid the execrations of the sufferers, and draw on himself the contempt and upbraidings of his neighbours. It is worthy of remark that the King, on opening the present session of the Chambers, attributed the contentment and peaceableness of the poorer classes under

the pressure of want to "the inexhaustible charity of France."

The same observations as to voluntary imposts is applicable to the farmer's position *en bon Catholique*. Though he pays no direct church-rate, he is liable to appeals from his priest on behalf of Mother Church, and seldom repudiates the claim. There are *fête* days, festivals, anniversaries, *bureaux de bienfaisances*, charitable contributions and fraternities (or sisterhoods), in support of which he is from time to time besought, and to whose special applications he knows not how to give a negative. Hence, be it the voluntary or involuntary system, it is a process of levy which, though it assess not his lands or profits by registered calculations, does, in the current year, operate as a rate; and altogether refutes the commonly received notion of our malcontents with Church and State, that in the foreign corn countries a man's religion costs him nothing.

At the same time, my highly intelligent acquaintance, M. Fauchet, acknowledges that our farmers pay nearly two-thirds more in rates and taxes, rent-charge, and fiscal contributions, than

the French farmers, who pay in rates and taxes two-elevenths of their rent. He couples with this statement the declaration that the agricultural class is more severely taxed than any other in France ; which is undeniably the truth.

Looking on these facts, we cannot but respect the zeal and assiduity with which all the right-minded men of France are at this moment endeavouring to avail themselves of our valuable experience ; and, as far as the straightened circumstances under which they own, or hire land, will permit—to organize in every department of the kingdom, a system of tillage and rural economy, in general, closely allied to our own. It was not my good fortune to visit the Norman farm with a first-rate English agriculturist at my side. Had I enjoyed such companionship, my gratification would have been complete, and these few memoranda might have been rendered more worthy of my reader's perusal ; but as far as in my power lay, I have accumulated authentic facts ; not only from circumstantial and business-like letters, generously transmitted to me from the most enlightened members of local boards, in

Normandy and Paris, but also from the lips of many highly intelligent men, whose courtesy and kindness, in a foreign land, deserved every grateful acknowledgment.

To a recent communication from another of these talented personages, I am indebted for the following particulars respecting the produce in the abundant harvest of this year, and the rate of wages at this date :—

The largest amount of produce reaped in the harvest of August, 1847, in the Norman territory, is as here stated :—

	QUARTERS.		BUSHELS.
Wheat.....	6	...	2
Rye	7	...	6
Barley	6	...	6
Oats.....	6	...	0

The “yield” of oats has been almost in every locality very indifferent ; the average not amounting to four quarters an acre : whereas, in favourable seasons, it is not unusual to get five.

The sheaves have been, here and there, counted and weighed, and the report is as follows for one acre :—

SHEAVES.	TONS.	CWTS.
240 of Wheat weighed	3	3
246 of Rye „	4	7
160 of Barley „	1	17
170 of Oats „	1	16

It has been found that from twenty-four to twenty-five sheaves of wheat are required for the threshing out of one hectolitre (two gallons less than three bushels) of grain ; eighteen in rye ; the same in barley and in oats.

These three bushels of wheat were found to weigh each eighty kilogrammes, equal to fifty-eight pounds avoirdupois.

The same in Rye, fifty-seven pounds six ounces.

„ Barley, forty-four pounds.

„ Oats, thirty pounds.

(The reader will find, in a preceding Chapter, my report of the weight of a bushel of grains of white wheat in my own village this autumn ; sixty pounds :—and of the straw thrown out in the threshing ; ninety-two pounds.)

My correspondent's letter goes on to say :
 “ Upon the whole, this harvest of 1847 has given us abundance of rye, of unexceptionable quality. The barley and oats are decidedly a bad crop, both as to quantity and quality.

“ The wheat has left us no room for complaint in respect of quantity ; but we calculate that a sixth of the whole crop has been deteriorated in quality subsequently to the harvest, either from atmospherical influences, as exhibited in blight (*la carie*) ; or from the grain having grown (*germinée*), in consequence of the rains in September.* *La carie* means, literally, ‘ rotteness ;’ but this is the French term for ‘ smut ’ in the ear.”

“ With regard to your query as to wages ;— such of our labourers as are not of the number

* Here we have our French brethren at fault. They are accustomed to pile up vast heaps of sheaves, and even to thatch them, temporarily, on the harvest-field ; there leaving them till hands can be spared from other parts of the farm to carry the crop. This delay is often as lengthy in duration as six or seven weeks. No wonder if a wet September does its work on such heaped grain. The very system above mentioned, of putting out the harvest-work to a contractor, who, of course, makes a point of employing as few labourers as possible, occasions this long and most detrimental exposure of the sheaves, which, in our country, are carried to the rick or barn at as early an opportunity, after the sithe or sickle has done its work, as fine weather will permit.

of permanently retained farm servants, and are never employed at the plough, harrow, stables, or carting, receive, on the average, two francs a-day, ten shillings a-week. (This is worth, at least, twelve shillings in England.) The women, casually employed, receive one franc and ten centimes a-day (elevenpence); equal to six shillings and tenpence a-week.

“The agreement, however, for our harvest weeks is, for the most part, made thus. One man, an old hand, well experienced in the work, contracts to get in all the crops, within a certain period, and to find hands for the job.

“This *ouvrier principal* (head-man) is bound to reap the corn, to tie it up in shocks (*botteler*), and stow it away in layers within the barn; peas and tares also. These three particular operations being the sum total of his personal share in the harvest labour; and for this he is paid at the rate of twenty-one francs the hectare” (8s. 6d. the acre; which we may consider tantamount to 10s. English, when comparing prices in the two countries).

“But,” continues my correspondent, “the

horses and carts, and men to go with them ; the loading of those carts or wagons, and the unloading thereof, are provided at the cost of the farmer, exclusively of the money above specified.

“ In getting in the clover, sainfoin, luzerne, and hay, the contractor receives five centimes (a halfpenny) for every bundle of fourteen or fifteen and a half pounds, so far as he is concerned in cutting, cleaning, and tying it up in bundles.

“ The remaining operations of loading and unloading, wagon driving, and stowage, are at the farmer's extra charge.

“ The same plan is followed as to roots, cider apples, and perry pears. For getting in the roots, he receives twenty centimes (twopence) per hectolitre (twenty-two gallons imperial measure), and for gathering the said fruit, fifteen centimes (three halfpence) for every hectolitre.

“ The farmer provides five gallons of cider for the harvest-labourers on every acre.”

These details, carefully written out by the President of the local Board of Agriculture of the

arrondissement of Rouen, in reply to a list of queries which I forwarded to him since Michaelmas, will serve to place before my farming acquaintances, and others into whose hands these volumes may fall, the most recent account of the field-work in immediate connection with the harvest, and of the current rate of wages in the Northern districts of France. Possibly some additional interest may be attached to the subject by the subjoined extract from a memorandum obligingly furnished by an intelligent yeoman who is in the habit of noting down with more than usual accuracy the outgoings on his farm in my own neighbourhood :—

This statement arranges the cost of getting in the several crops of wheat, barley, oats, beans, mangel-wurzel, and potatoes, as follows :—

WHEAT		£	s.	d.
Cost of reaping, per acre		0	13	0
Carting		0	10	6
Stacking		0	4	0
Thatching ricks	} computing nine square, equal to 2700 ft. superficial	0	2	6
and				
supplying straw				
Beer		0	1	0
		1 11 0		

N. B.—These estimates allow five hands (adults) and two (boys or girls) younger labourers, at three-pence the hour, one with the other. Moreover, the harvest wages are a great advance on the ordinary pay. If the ordinary pay be 2*s.* 3*d.* per diem, the harvest, or extraordinary, pay is 3*s.* 6*d.*

If the wheat be stowed away in the barn, instead of being stacked, the expense is computed at the same figures, (6*s.* 6*d.*)

BARLEY.	£	s.	d.
Cost of reaping, per acre	0	8	0
Cartage	0	8	6
Stacking	0	3	9
Thatching ricks and supplying straw ...	0	3	0
Beer	0	1	0
	1	4	3

OATS.	£	s.	d.
Cost of cutting, per acre.....	0	10	0
Cartage	0	9	0
Stacking	0	4	0
Thatching and Straw.....	0	3	0
Beer	0	0	9
	1	6	9

BEANS.	£	s.	d.
Cost of cutting and binding, per acre...	0	7	6
Cartage	0	7	0
Stacking.....	0	4	0
Thatching and Straw (say six square)	0	2	0
	1	0	6
	M 2		

POTATO.

Cost of sacking, say eighty sacks, per £ s. d.
 acre 1 6 8

This comprises digging up, and leaving them ready for market.

MANGEL WURZEL.

Cost of banking in Field, say thirty £ s. d.
 tons, per acre..... 2 18 0

This comprises digging up, trimming and casting, and securing the crop in the bank.

REMARKS.—A moderately good reaper can cut, bind, and set into shocks one acre of wheat in two days and a half, single-handed.

The same man, with his wife and two strong boys, would mow, take out, bind and shock an acre of wheat in one day.

The calculation, here given, of cartage is made for a moderate distance, and at the usual harvest wages.

In stacking, the payment is regulated by the labour.

In thatching the cost depends on the number of squares, and the quantity of straw required. A square of thatch is 300 superficial feet.

I here take leave of the subject of management of farms in the district to which my attention was principally directed. I could have wished, for my own and for my readers' sake, that the amount of previous knowledge on all matters connected with agriculture had been much more extensive, and that I had had the vast advantage of being

able to look upon soils and systems with a well-educated eye. Nevertheless, whoever may chance to peruse these pages may rely on the fidelity of the narratives, and on the truth of the documents and figures accompanying my recital. If this assurance be taken in good part, I incline to believe that these endeavours to render the large community of casual readers a little better acquainted with French husbandry than the generality are supposed to be, will not be altogether futile, whether in respect of the corn question, or of the relative prospects of the landed interest in the two greatest kingdoms of the universe. At the same time it is to be remembered that these notes, penned originally on the field, are limited to the capabilities and customs of a certain district,—perhaps the best district of France; and the reader is not to suppose that either the systems of cultivation, or modes of management here detailed are predicable of all the farms of that country; though, in some few particulars, the practice of the tenants of land is uniformly the same; and the resources of good, bad, or indifferent soil are distributed over 120 millions of

acres capable of production, and, therefore, lie open to all the ameliorations offered by the advance of science. Let me be regarded here as I was across the water, as a student in this branch of knowledge; a mere sciolist in agricultural lore, who is come home with specimens and samples of his industrious travel, for wiser heads to contemplate; and who thus, in point of fact, *learns*, while he seems to assume the position of a *teacher*!

No one, at any rate, will disparage even THE PARSON'S enquiries into a subject which, in modern, as well as in ancient times, has engaged the attention of men of the most exalted rank and the most distinguished talents—and been recommended to every lover of his country, scarcely more by its paramount importance to every order in the community, than by the manly and independent spirit which it seems to excite among its votaries.

Possibly, these few scraps of intelligence may be acceptable to some cursory readers of post octavos, with “cuts,” who would turn with affright from quartos of detailed instruction;—

and stimulate the ambition of even a few growers, who may have cherished apprehensions as to the close proximity of the Norman agriculturists ! Be this as it may, I regard every man a benefactor to the community, who pens a line, or perfectionates an implement, which may promote the welfare of those whose lives are spent in cultivating the broad acres of his fatherland ; and so far from such patriotism being alien to the spirit of the ecclesiastical body, as the conservators of learning, and the inculcators of useful and religious knowledge, I opine, that the progress of agricultural science will henceforth be in exact proportion to the extent of our success in dispelling ignorance from among the classes on whose abilities and willingness to improve all such advancement must depend. In what country has not Agriculture lagged behind in improvement, compared with other great branches of art ? And wherefore, but that Agriculture is an art more difficult to be handled, without certain portions of knowledge and understanding, than those which admit of greater subdivision and simplicity.

“ L'agriculture est bien moins un art, qu'une

admirable réunion de plusieurs arts très distingués." Hence the need of the agricultural colleges in all countries. How formidable, and frequently how effectual a resistance is presented to the improver in farm operations by the blind prejudices and coarse indocility of the labouring husbandman, who from *ignorance* and from mental inaction is bigoted to the practices to which from childhood he has been accustomed, and can accommodate neither his hand nor his mind to any process that is new. I could quote an instance of a large landowner in one of the eastern counties, who having witnessed the effectual working of our Kentish Turn-rest plough, caused one to be built in my neighbourhood, and sent it down in all its beauty to his home farm. Nothing could induce the stupid clowns of that locality to persevere in the use of it; though it threw up to the sun and air rich vegetative loam that had lain below for ages. To ignorance, then, may we trace more than half the evils which have marred and frustrated the efforts of enlightened men to bring nearer and nearer to perfection the principles of sound husbandry. Let any of my fraternity, accus-

tomed to ride daily through miles of parish roads, and to notice the variety of operations in which the most ordinary agent in the business of agriculture must be employed, and the various kinds of knowledge which it is necessary for him to possess, depose to the conviction produced in his mind, that to render either the employer or the labourer a proper instrument in an actively improving, and therefore a changing, Agriculture, the mind of the man must have been rendered alert and pliant by education ;—so far, at the very least, as to become sufficiently enlightened to *believe* that improvements on even time-honoured and favourite systems may be made ; and to think that it is not unworthy of him to second the wishes and suggestions of *the improver*.

When both master and man shall be thus qualified and disposed, the ways and means of remuneration will be speedily forthcoming ; and not until this proficiency and good-will shall become generally apparent, are we to anticipate any great changes for the better ; it being the declaration of only too many men whose names have adorned the annals of science, that the difficulties by

which they have been mastered when reducing their theories to practice, resulted almost as much from the *aversion* as from the incapacity of the agents they of necessity had to employ. And these are the reflections which have long since induced me to believe that the prosperous augmentation of the produce of land in our country will be found commensurate with the extension of education among the classes into whose hands, whether they be the employers or the employed, the tillage of the soil and the full appropriation of its hardly yet developed resources are committed. The days of mere mechanical routine are almost numbered; and most corn will be eventually grown where a competent knowledge of all the ordinary processes of cultivation shall be combined with a perfect comprehension of the recently elicited truths by which chemical science alone can guide the agriculturist to success. Many a veteran in practical husbandry will ere long be overheard confessing that throughout his business-life he has been working comparatively in the dark; substituting loose and conjectural estimates for the dictates of enlightened theory

and the principles of unerring science. This is no philosophical refinement. Mind, as well as Matter, must be brought to act upon the breadth of this kingdom's acres ; and the old supposition that any man may become a farmer and thrive, will be found about as truthful as the presumption that little is needful to make a parson ! Both these wild axioms are at length receiving their refutation in the altered complexion of both agricultural and chemical affairs ; and great changes and amendments are manifestly beginning to operate. For my part, I regard every resident in our rural districts, be he lay or ecclesiastic, as a benefactor to the community, who fearlessly addresses himself to the invidious task of endeavouring to eradicate the prejudices, and refine the breeding, of those who may be growing up in waywardness ; and who, consequently, have much to *unlearn*, ere they benefit themselves or their country by the adoption of better systems, and the manifestation of a less untractable spirit. Such an ameliorator of men and manners has but too wide a field of usefulness before him ; and whether he be a founder of churches, colleges, or

schools, he will "have done the state some service," (and they know it,) if his exertions tend to improve the mind and department of any portion, but especially the juvenile and largest section, of the farming community, who fain would be suffered to continue still in their "uppishness," and darken the land with their crass and revolting ignorance.

CHAPTER VII.

July 12th.—Once again on wheels ! We left the Hôtel de Normandie, in Rouen, at half-past eleven in the forenoon, and verily believed we should speedily return into it ; for the *sortie* made by the Royal diligence, in the *banquette* of which my son and I had delighted to ensconce ourselves, as we dashed out of the Messageries' yard with six horses, three abreast, (which with the five-ton weighted carriage in their rear occupied a length of thirty feet,) was about as terrific an exploit as I had ever witnessed, I might say *felt*, in coachmanship. How the driver managed to keep the off leader from demolishing the glazed frontage of the coffee-room, and the whole set-out of marble-slabbed tables, glass, china, and chairs, "so late our happy seat," in the hostelry above mentioned, I could not compre-

hend. Considering the closely limited space in which he turned,—the particularly narrow breadth of the Rue de Bec,—and the impulse with which “anon the wood began to move,” as the mad horses dragged the ponderous framework out of the said yard, at right angles with the street, it was absolutely marvellous that we were not deposited bodily on the floor of the café. But “mountain” and all, we swung clear of every window, of gas-lamps, water-carriers, cherry-vendors, barrels, bulls, cows, and *Cauchoises*,—of all which we encountered, and now and then *grazed* several,—and rattled along up street, down street, the gaze and wonderment, the fear and admiration of every biped and quadruped between the pavement of the Rue de Bec, and the noble forty-feet wide road we at length reached outside the city. But for the disreputable practice of making bad puns, I should say it was a “*thundering* shame” to the street commissioners or police that they should have permitted us to cut away as we did that morning. As the rolling peal grew louder and louder, the old men retreated from

the *pavé* into the shops, the women ran for it; (I saw at least fifty pairs of blue-hosed calves,) and some of the children squeaked in bodily consternation. As for the dogs, there was one cur who, within an inch, had well-nigh lost the whole of his tail,—and, if we might judge by the “lamenting dolings in the air,” and hisses of prolonged exasperation from some twelve or fifteen geese we rushed upon at the very first turning out of our street, there must have been *fowl* murder committed ere we cleared the town. However, our Jehu, undeterred, flogged and flanked away, delighted, (after the manner of savages,) with the din, and, like another Catiline, “*Abiit, evasit, erupit*”—(got away, gave the go-bye to all impediments, and broke free) with twenty-six “fares,” and enough lumber and luggage in his “mountain” to fill a lug-sail-boat.

When we were in the open M^cAdamised causeway, I asked how many passengers could travel in one of these diligences. If there be no *effêts*, (no luggage,) the conducteur may take *forty*! But if there be a *montagne* formed by the luggage, he must not exceed, if

he can help it, a quarter of a hundred. Commend me to *Messieurs les conducteurs* for greetings and salutations to them of the same craft! Talk of George the Fourth's bow, it was a nod in comparison with that made by our conducteur to one whom we met soon after we were fairly *en route*. Off hat! Down chin! How, in his cramped position, and with a bag and dog in the *banquette*, he contrived to accomplish the act of grace exhibited in this encounter, I cannot conceive. Where do these fellows learn it? * And what a pity it is we have not a little of it *chez nous* in his class, and in many other of the labouring community! One civil bow from one of our joskins is worth a whole day's sunshine in November or February.

Shortly afterwards we met an open-sided cart with six men standing in it, driven by a countryman and escorted by six mounted *gens-d'armes*. "Ce sont des voleurs:" ("these fellows are thieves,") said our Conducteur, who, I perceived,

* I may answer my own query. Many of these Conducteurs have seen "better days," as the saying is. Some have actually been field-officers in the army.

was no common man, and was likely to answer very satisfactorily many a roadside question ere we should part.

This high-road to Dieppe presents to view every now and then some very handsome country-seats; a glance serves to discover among the plantations by which they are flanked and backed, the factories, cotton mills, &c. from which flow the sources of their owners' wealth. Some of the lodges to the grounds were singularly well-designed and built.

We got over the first stage of nine English miles in one hour. Every now and then we caught a glimpse of the railway works. The line was in progress of completion between Rouen and Dieppe. It appears that there are very many English labourers employed on this new formation. I asked how these "navvies" managed to get on without any knowledge of the French language; and it seems they depend on the number of French who have "picked up" a little English, rather than on their own puny acquirements. And, "*Où est ce qu'on trouve le porter ?*" asked I. My informant gave me

to understand that they could not procure any porter; and such beer as might be procurable would not suit their taste: it is new and imperfectly fermented. The wine sold in the vicinity makes them so warm that they cannot work with it; and, moreover, as Normandy is not a wine country, that description of beverage is too costly in this neighbourhood. Under these circumstances, the English have recourse to cider; their French fellow-labourers drink abundance of coffee.

Saw some magnificent approaches to rather *mediocres* châteaux. The noble old trees formed a triple avenue, and presented to the view that singularly graceful design for access to first-rate residences, a chase.

Many a beautiful deep glen, and thickly-wooded hollow, with richly tufted slopes, appeared, from time to time, on our right, till we entered the Pays de Caux, where the land lay level and high, and the breeze came delightfully towards us in the tenth of the dog-days. Saw plenty of apple, pear, and plum-trees *in the wheat crop*. Tares, oats, and coleseed abounded. We saw a large field of the latter covered with

heaps of the gathered crop. I observed, by the way, that there were sow-thistles a yard high in it. The coleseed, or rapeseed-oil, is extensively employed in France for the dressing of leather, which it renders peculiarly soft; as any who have worn boots and shoes in that country may testify.

Shortly afterwards we saw some more country seats; having changed horses at Cambres, and entered the vale of the Cailly. Most of these châteaux have very picturesque lodges; the plaister of the walls being kept brilliantly white by limewash, and the timbers being painted black; roof thatched. In the Pays de Caux, the roads are bordered by apple-trees, and occasionally by pear-trees, for several miles.

Not far from Tôtes, where mills, spinners and weavers abound, we met two flocks of sheep within a mile of each other. Each flock contained a hundred. They were awfully lean and scraggy.

Hereabouts, moreover, I noticed that peculiar mode of house frontage, (among the cottages occupied by families that work at the cotton

factories,) which I had seen in many hundreds of the larger houses in Rouen. Slates are nailed to the stud-work timbers, producing somewhat of the appearance of scale-armour. I presume it is with a view to the better preservation of the timber, by throwing off the rain when driven by high wind. Many houses in Cork used to exhibit the same facing; but they were entirely covered, and looked very dull and sombre.



As we entered Tôtes, and left at the post-house a hat-box, inscribed, “très friable, très

pressé,"—("breakable; without the least delay,")—and directed to Mons. Le Comte de Malortic, the owner of a very considerable territory in this district, I was astonished, on first sight of his handsome mansion, to behold a wide extent of brick-field, kilns, smoke, and all the usual abominations of brick-making, exactly facing his drawing-room windows! I suppose there were hardly a hundred yards between his lawn and the first stool of bricks. My informant in the *banquette* told me the Count had discovered a lucrative source of improvement of his fortunes in a vast tract of excellent brick-earth; and had contracted to furnish seven millions of bricks to the Rouen and Dieppe railway works. There were draining tiles, also, under process of drying and baking in the kilns. These kilns are called *les tuileries*.* Hence Monsieur le Comte may date his letters from "Son Château des Tuileries," like another Louis Philippe! The country be-

* The site of the French king's palace at Paris was anciently occupied by brick and tile makers, and the kilns stood where the Carousel is now. Hence it was called (and still retains the name), "Le Château des Tuileries."

yond this point is exceedingly beautiful ; exhibiting large breadths of white wheat, tares, and cole-seed ; but I saw neither barley nor beans. At intervals, among the thick woodlands on the right, there were gentlemen's seats. These were the best residences I had seen in France, considered as the property of plain individuals ; most of the owners being the cotton-lords of the country.

The road hereabouts was seventy-five feet wide from bank to bank. When the accumulated sweepings of the road begin to form a considerable embankment, a plough is set to work upon it, and the clods are thrown on to the adjacent land. The whited plaister and black-painted timber continued to signalize the cottages, which, beyond all comparison, are the neatest I ever saw. The beauty of their design and the substantial workmanship are not surpassed by any in England ; and the cleanliness and uniform neatness were worthy of Holland. At Ornainville, where we changed horses, a young driver took the reins, whose appearance struck me as peculiarly interesting. The lad had just attained his seventeenth

year. The conducteur stated that in the Pays de Caux the natives were of more active disposition and quicker in intelligence, than the generality of the French peasantry. The youths of this district have, as it were, old heads on young shoulders, and outdo the Picards in everything. This young fellow was in the receipt, as a driver on this line of posting, of forty francs a-month (20*l.* a-year), and received, over and above that salary, a penny a-head, from the Conducteur, for every passenger. This amounts, sometimes, to as much as 4*s.* a-day. He would take 2*s.* 2*d.* on the eight or nine-mile stage he was now driving us. Thus was a mere stripling, from dexterity and steady conduct, earning nearly 100*l.* a-year.

As we proceeded, the whole face of the country assumed the aspect of Old England; the only French feature being the apple-trees on the roadside. Wheat-fields, meadows, orchards, beautiful cottages, whitethorn hedges, clipped to admiration, and a capital M'Adamized road, with heaps of stones, ready broken, at intervals of twenty feet, on either side of the way, dispelled, for the moment, all consciousness of being in a

foreign land. Ornainville is thoroughly English in its aspect; as beautiful a hamlet as the eye would fain rest upon, the "sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plains" of the Pays de Caux. I have seen some spots near Frome, in Somersetshire, closely resembling this locality.

The quick-hedges were like green walls; the thorn had been admirably cultivated, and the shears and reaping-hook must have been sedulously employed. Here and there, some of the stoutest and straightest stems had been left to grow upwards, and French ingenuity had contrived to form alcoves, or arbours, with thick pillars, and frieze, and roofage, and windows, from the thriving growth of the whitethorn. There was something Cockneyish in the idea; but nothing could surpass its execution.

Such very young trees, as, being planted on the road-side, might be liable to injury, are completely boarded up, to a height of six feet, with planks of poplar wood, well secured by nails. The absence of vines renders the careful husbandry of the apple-crop a very important consideration among people who know not what it is to see

malt or hops. The roads of this district were, beyond all comparison, the finest I have seen in Europe. The *cantonniers* are indefatigable in keeping a vast store of ready-broken stones, placed, as I just now observed, at intervals of about seven yards on either side of the way; and they never suffer holes or ruts to form. We met two carts filled with grey clay for an adjoining pottery.

No one who is well acquainted with the English counties could fail to be surprised at the very remarkable resemblance of our native scenery borne by every stage of distance in the particular route I am here describing. Now we are in Matlock, now in the Isle of Thanet; at length we ascend and descend "a stiff hill" or two:—We are at St. Alban's, Herts. The handsome and even *comfortable*-looking gentlemen's seats, their gravelled drives to the mansion, the lodge, the chase, the beautiful cottages, the admirable roads, all and everything that the eye surveys with becoming self-gratulation in a favourite English province, may be viewed for mile after mile, and league after league, in this part of Normandy, which certainly exceeded the most sanguine ex-

pectations I had been led to form. At length, while these visions of England were still floating before the mind's eye, we seemed to be descending into the parish of All Saints, at Hastings, by the road from Battle. But, no ! It was the declivity down which the traveller is carried into Dieppe. The chalky hills that descended in graceful slopes towards the harbour were most delightfully adorned with trees, and presented a miniature resemblance of Mount Edgecombe, Devon. The *coup d'œil* was charming. Few towns appear to better advantage from a height than Dieppe ; and the limited space of time remaining for our journey homeward compelled us to remain contented with this Mount Pisgah glimpse of one of the best fishing-ports of France. The population exceeds 12,000 ; and the hundred owners of vessels that sail hence on the cod-fishery excursions are the parties on whose behalf I heard the Minister appealing to the *Chambre des Députés* in Paris (as above related). Had time permitted, I should have lingered about Dieppe for two or three days ; even if only to carry home a sketch of the ruins at Arques ; but we stayed

only half-an-hour in the town ; having arranged to reach Abbeville by ten o'clock that night.

At about the distance of a mile and three quarters out of Dieppe towards Abbeville, for which place we started at half-past four, we saw the first *road-side* crucifix which had met our eyes in France. The cross was fourteen feet high ; the figure of our Lord, five feet six inches : the latter was well carved in wood, and truthfully painted. Another was visible in the market-place of Criel, a village between Tocqueville and Eu. There was a fête in Criel, but on what occasion I could not learn, as we drove along at the rate of nine miles an hour through the street. I saw five girls walking arm-in-arm, in a row ; they were habited in damask rose-coloured cotton gowns, of very short cut, and wore blue stockings and white collars and cuffs ; the dress was picturesque enough ; but not a Cauchoise cap was to be seen, nor, be it said, a tolerably pretty face.

In this neighbourhood I noticed the peculiar cutting of the hill-sides. The rapid slopes or declivities were cut into immensely long platforms, closely resembling those extensive grassy

terraces into which some of the loftiest hills in Bedfordshire (especially Barn Hole at Shillington) were cut; as is supposed, by the Romans. These near Tocqueville and Criel were thus portioned out into a series of levels, resembling a gigantic flight of steps, for the more effective use of the plough. The plan seemed to be in universal adoption on all the hill country between Dieppe and Abbeville.

As we galloped along towards Eu we saw several crucifixes. One was profusely decorated with boughs of laurel. This was probably an offering from some few individuals on the occasion of a rendezvous or gathering of friends of a missionary society, held at this particular *Calvaire*, or spot on which the crucifix stood.

This particular kind of adornment, however, is commonly bestowed in Lent. On Shrove-Tuesday, when the boughs are withering, they are taken down and burned. The ashes are carefully gathered up and taken to any church for which the votary who adorned the crucifix may feel a preference. They are there and then blessed by the priest: and so many of the congregation as

on the day following (Ash-Wednesday) may happen to present themselves at Church, as penitents seeking absolution, are marked on the forehead with a small portion of these ashes, in form of the cross, the priest addressing each in these words:

“Remember, O man, that thou art mortal; that thou wast created out of the dust of the earth, and into dust shalt return.”

“C’est un reste,” says the *Petit Eucologe*, or Prayer-book, “de l’ancienne discipline de l’Eglise envers ceux qu’elle soumettait à la pénitence publique.”

These relics of the works of supererogation, in which the votaries of the *ancien régime* were far “too superstitious,” availed not to disperse the regret we felt at the loss of those beautiful cottages we had been admiring through so many previous hours. We were now in a line of cross-road, disfigured frequently by yellow-looking, clay-built cabins. The trimly cut, green, and thriving quickset hedges were no more to be seen. Walls of clay and wattles, worked in with mud and mortar, and thatched all along the top for the exclusion of wet, imparted a poverty-struck

aspect to the farms we passed on our way into Picardy; and gave a hint that whoever would desire to have the gratification of seeing the beauties of Normandy, enhanced by any special *plan de route*, ought to turn off at Abbeville, or Amiens, into this very line of road on which we were travelling, and so proceed through Dieppe into the Pays de Caux and Rouen. The contrast we were at present beholding was lamentable. We alighted at Eu, to get a peep at Louis Philippe's marine *château*, to which, by-the-bye, he was annexing extensive improvements in brick and mortar. But Treport lies close to the seabeach; and we saw little else than the attached offices or upper courts of the principal mansion. We did not forget to think of the bathing-machine anecdote, and of our gracious queen's adventures on the frontier of Picardy, into which we were now, at length, returning; as daylight began to fail, and appetite for some kind of repast grew stronger.

We reached Abbeville at ten o'clock; and, though we had been travelling eleven hours, we determined, after a tolerably good supper, to

push on for Boulogne, which, by favour of a respectable diligence, which was to start at a quarter to eleven, and in the *banquette* of which, with closed German shutters, we secured very comfortable places, we reached at half-past five, in the morning of Tuesday the 13th. We gained immediate admission into the Hôtel d'Angleterre, which we had left nearly three weeks before, and turned into bed, with as hearty inclination to "have an exposition of sleep come upon us," as any two such pilgrims off an eighteen hours' travel could well cherish.

A southerly wind and an azure sky soon wooed and won us from our feather-beds; though, it will be admitted, we had fairly earned a little indulgence in the *chambres à coucher*, considering that active *energizing* of the preceding three weeks, to which the reader owes these three volumes. But Boulogne is no mean town, as I said at the outset; and to travellers who turn to good account every favourable opportunity of gaining insight into objects worthy of research and attention, a stroll through the streets, ramparts, and environs of this most ancient bourg, is as delec-

table an employment of leisure as the love of either novelty or antiquity can desire.

If they "have writ their annals true," the inhabitants of Boulogne may attribute the name of their town to Quintus Pedius, one of the "legati" or lieutenants, mentioned by Julius Cæsar, in the eleventh chapter of the second book of his "Commentaries." This soldier, who was born at Bononia, on the Rhine, remained some time commandant of the district of Morinia (now the coast of Boulogne), and during that period named the port after his own birth-place. This was about fifty-four years before the birth of Christ. Previous to that date the place was known as Gessoriacum, the spot whence, to use Cæsar's terms, "brevissimus trajetus est in Britanniam" (the shortest passage is practicable into Britain). It continued to be a military station and an arsenal to the Roman fleet, up to the period of the overthrow of the empire; and then, in common with most other towns of any note, fell a prey to the barbarians.

The two remarkable events which subsequently attached notoriety, if not fame, to

Boulogne, were the investment of it from the Calais side, by our Henry VIII., with 30,000 men, and a staff comprehending, as Hume says, "the most flourishing nobility and gentry of his kingdom." These forces were joined by Count de Buren, Admiral of Flanders, with 10,000 infantry, and 4,000 horse; an army which nothing on that frontier was able to resist. After a siege of nearly six weeks, during which the Boulognese garrison of only 3,000 men made a gallant defence, the town surrendered on the 14th September, and was held by the English for six years, till, in the reign of Edward VI., the second Henri of France redeemed it by a payment of 40,000 crowns.

The next occasion of this town and neighbourhood springing into pre-eminence was that of the formation of the camp of the French Army of Invasion, as it was called, under the personal command of Napoleon. This celebrated rendezvous gathered together nearly 180,000 infantry, upwards of 9000 cavalry, and 2413 vessels, manned by 16,790 men. How all this threatening display terminated, is too well known to warrant

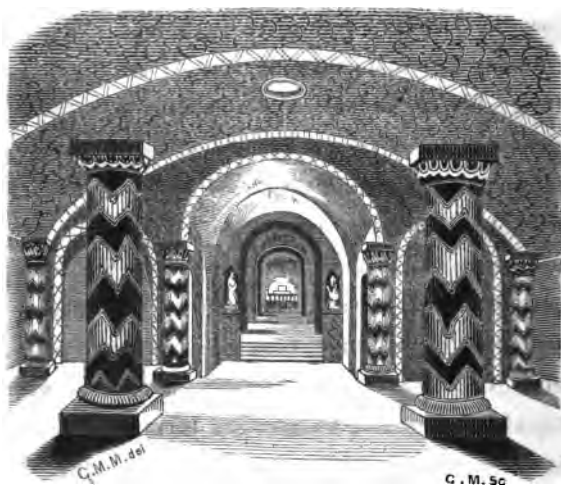
any mention of such discomfiture in these pages. Boulogne may be considered a thriving colony—the Brighton of France; which, at the peace of 1815, contained 13,000 inhabitants, and now is computed to contain nearly *thirty* thousand.

Houses are in progress of erection in every quarter; and the town has been wonderfully improved within the last ten or twelve years: but the most remarkable feature of the place is the new Cathedral, which may be seen, through a telescope, soon after one quits Folkestone for the opposite shore. It is in progress of erection on the highest point of the upper town, and, though the dome, similar to that of the Hôtel des Invalides in Paris, is yet to be constructed, the round tower on which the crowning cupola will rest, soars majestically, like the temple of Vesta at Tivoli, above all surrounding objects. This splendid edifice, of stone from the quarries of Marquise, which is raised on the site where once stood the church built by Clotaire II., in the year 606, and enlarged during the reign of succeeding monarchs up to the period of the Revolution in 1793, owes its existence to one of the most

enterprising and zealous men of the present century, Mons. l'Abbé Haffreingue, of Boulogne, whose untiring perseverance in what his creed teaches him to regard as a work most acceptable to the Almighty, might shed lustre on any cause involving the interests of Christianity.

It would far exceed the limits of this publication were I to enter upon even an abridgment of the account of the crypt discovered some years since, when the foundations of the new Cathedral were in progress of excavation. It is a subterranean chapel, forty-two feet in length, by thirty-four in breadth, and seven in height. Eight columns, of remote antiquity, form a striking feature. These, as well as the ceiling and walls, were painted by the architect of olden time; and, in many parts, exhibit tints as fresh as if the work had been just completed. All this was opened to the light in the presence of the town authorities and a vast concourse of the inhabitants. The paintings began to fade very soon after the discovery of the crypt, and it was found indispensable to recolour them all. They include many portraits of the Royal families of

France from the twelfth century upward. One large picture on the wall represents the twenty-one personages present at the marriage of Edward II. of England, with Isabella, daughter of Philip IV., surnamed *Le Bel*. The general effect of these subterranean chambers is similar to that by which many of my readers may possibly remember having been impressed on viewing, in London, the very ingenious representation of the apartments discovered in the Egyptian pyramid by Belzoni, many years since. I annex a sketch



of the first entry into the crypt, and some passages from a long letter sent to me by the Abbé Haffreingue, a few months since, which may possibly interest some of the lovers of antiquity, at least ; if the unaffected humility of the writer, who has been represented to me as one of the most amiable of men, awaken not a certain degree of veneration for motives and exertions which David himself would have applauded, and Solomon have delighted to honour :—

(Translation.)

“ Boulogne sur Mer,
Oct. 29th, 1847.

“ I beg you will accept my sincere acknowledgments of the interest you have expressed in the work upon which I have been so long engaged ; and regret not having seen you on the occasion of your visit to our town, when I might have communicated to you, *in propria persona*, such information relative to the temple which, on completion, will be dedicated to the Mother of the Son of God ;—and to the crypt which, after the lapse of so many centuries, has been brought to light on our laying the foundations.

“ You ask me what could have induced me, as a solitary individual, without private means or public station and ascendancy, to enter on so gigantic an undertaking as the building of this Cathedral. I shall be enabled to make most appropriate reply by inviting your attention to a few particulars relative to the ancient temple, which the modern edifice will eventually replace. .

“ On reference to the history of our country, it will appear that very few sacred structures can prefer such high claims to the notice of archæologists, or boast of such justly acquired celebrity. According to the most authentic documents, the establishment of a sanctuary consecrated in our town to the worship of the Virgin Mary is of as early a date as the first ages of the French monarchy; that is to say, in the year of our Lord 682. The valuable remains of this hallowed temple awakened such intense interest as to encourage the most diligent search into every particular that could serve to throw light on the subject; and those enquiries have confirmed the original conjecture that the sacred structure in question has, at various periods, been overthrown

and restored. At the date of its most flourishing celebrity, which was about the 12th century, it attracted an incredibly great number of pilgrims from every country in Europe ; and continued, in fact, to be a place of favourite resort for the faithful up to the year 1793, when the Cathedral church, of which it formed the crypt, was destroyed.

“ As soon as circumstances appeared to favour such efforts, an earnest wish was entertained to raise the prostrate ruins of this asylum of piety ; while we reflected with feelings of no light gratification on the interesting fact, that during the deplorable feuds prevailing between France and England in the middle ages, the altar of the Virgin became, as it were, the common hearth of refuge, the arch of alliance, whither many a time and oft both parties betook themselves, as if to blend their race and renew the bonds of amity. Witness, among other instances, the marriage of Edward II. King of England with Isabella of France, in the year 1308 ;—a happy presage of the destination of that very fane which is now rising, and which, under new relations, may probably become at some future day a rallying point

where, within the bosom of the Church, the remains of that rivalry which had so long divided the two countries shall be lost in final annihilation.

“Such were the devout sentiments, such the consolatory thoughts, which gave rise to the present design of dedicating a church which should glorify the Mother of the Son of God, in observance of that fine text of Scripture, ‘*Beatam me dicent omnes generationes.*’* ”

“The new cathedral is on a scale of 392 English feet in length, and 152 in breadth; and will be surmounted by a dome, the summit of which will be at the height of 392 feet from the ground. The said dome is to support, on its apex, a kind of triumphal arch, under which will be placed a colossal statue of the Virgin bearing her divine Son on her left arm; and, with her right hand, pointing out to him England, the isle of his regard (! ! !)

“The works were commenced in 1827, but were suspended through five years; not only in consequence of the events of July 1830, but also from want of funds. It is expected, however,

* “All generations shall call me blessed.”

that the dome and the two towers of the portico will be completed in 1849, and the remainder of the edifice in 1853 or 1854.

“The outlay up to this date has been very great; and much remains to be accomplished before this sacred building can be thrown open for public worship. Neither the Holy See nor the French Court has contributed any aid to the undertaking. With exception of some very considerable donations from three individuals of our nation, amounting altogether to 150,000 francs (6,000*l.*) the resources have been derived from small offerings collected in various quarters, but especially in the neighbourhood of Boulogne. Thus might we with all truth inscribe on the frieze of the principal cornice in the interior, those words of the 117th psalm, ‘*A Domino factum est istud,*’* and when we contemplate the feeble means employed on such a work, we may exclaim with St. Paul, ‘*Infirma mundi elegit Deus, ut confundat fortia; ut non gloriatur omnis caro in conspectu ejus.*’†

* “This is the Lord’s doing.”

† “God hath chosen the weak things of the world, to confound the things that are mighty,”—“that no flesh should glory in His presence.”

“Up to the present time England has contributed but little towards the erection of the edifice; doubtlessly because so little information has been afforded to your countrymen on the subject.

* * * * *

“The originator of the design of this cathedral gives not one thought to the honour that might accrue from man, nor reckons he on the gratitude of his countrymen. He trusts only to the infinite mercy of the Lord that his name may be written in the Book of Life. This constitutes all his ambition.”

I think it discreet to mention that the asterisks are not introduced in this letter to suppress any observations on England or the English; but for the purpose of sparing my readers the *ennui* of reading some highly complimentary remarks on their humble servant, whose reception among all the men of science it was his good fortune to encounter in France, was, certainly, of the most gratifying character. The “learning

and candour, and kindness," of almost every literary personage in the country, "make," (to use the language of the Rev. Dr. Wordsworth,) "their society very interesting." *

Still the good Abbé and his English correspondent are as wide asunder as the Poles as to the appropriation of the *opus operatum*, be it finished when it may. As Protestants, we cannot but regard the evil pre-eminence to which the Romanist exalts the Virgin Mary, as idolatrous adoration, which the meek and quiet spirit of her whom, *when all was over*, the beloved disciple took to his own home, would have been the first to deprecate, to shudder at, and condemn.

This, however, does not touch the merits of a well-meaning man's unselfish zeal and devotedness; and I recommend every one who may have an hour to spare *en route* from Boulogne to any part of France, to pay a visit of careful inspection to the Cathedral and crypt of Nôtre Dame; not, indeed, that the architecture of

* Diary in France, mainly on topics concerning the Church and Education.

the modern fane will bear scrutiny; the proportions being faulty, and the taste impure. The *tout-ensemble*, nevertheless, must be striking, and with all its imperfections on its head will merit admiration. The old subterranean chapel, above mentioned and illustrated, is of engrossing interest as an archæological relic of the rarest features.

After rambling through the aisles of this sanctuary, we made the compass of the ramparts, the slopes of which form some of the finest kitchen garden-ground I have ever seen. The allotments hired by the various growers, whether for orchard, fruit, or vegetables, are let at 40s. an acre. In this country they would be cheap at 7l.

The walk over these vestiges of early fortifications is full of antiquarian interest. They have survived six centuries; and their semi-circular bastions, or *demi-lunes*, awaken recollections of the feats of which Froissart wrote chronicles, and troubadours composed songs. The ramparts form delightful promenades, whence the English eye may, on a summer afternoon, range to the

well-loved chalky cliffs, and return to the banks of the Seine, rejoicing in land and sea, river and sunshine, valley and woodland, fruit and flower ; till conviction, with happy consciousness, begins to believe that any state but peace between the two great nations must be “ most foul, strange, and unnatural.”

As I leaned on the grey-stone parapet, and pondered on the issues of the last war—the miseries of its victims and the altered position of the belligerents,—the pride of triumph and of patriotism gently succumbed to every softer feeling ; and, as the sun went down upon this our final day in France, I felt we were about to part from men of warm hearts and kindly affections, who, but for twenty miles of sea and a conflicting creed, might have fraternized with the greatest and the best in our land, long, long ago, and combined to civilize the world. May such goodwill become, year after year, more general and intense. I much regret the discussions lately entertained on a topic with which no very amicable dispositions between the two countries can coexist ; and though such an opinion, shared as it

is by thousands of deep thinkers, will never mend the matter, I hesitate not to record my belief, (and the reader will notice, in a page or two further on, a Frenchman's belief,) that nothing is more remote from the counsels or contemplations of the most *bellicose* spirit in France, than an aggressive incursion. Our gallant duke's celebrated letter simply states what an enemy *might* do. He is the last man that would wish to convince us that our opposite neighbours *will* dash across the straits in quest of defeat and annihilation ; even as Lord Nelson, who, when George III., in an audience, was making some observations on the threatened invasion in 1804, addressed the king in these memorable words, "I can assure your majesty they will never come by *sea* !"

I also opine that the ancient feuds are nearly worn out. I know Frenchmen of all parties. I cannot believe there is any the slightest desire to come into collision with our country ; not only because War would pauperize the world, but because such another international quarrel would be a violation of all the conventional dictates of modern civilization, a barbarous and brutish ex-

pedient, testifying that neither people has yet attained the acme of refinement, nor deserved pre-eminence and precedence among all nations. All that could strengthen French liberty, power, wealth, and influence, must emanate from the permanency of peace. Horace's allegory of the Ship, with reference to the Roman Commonwealth, would be truthful as prophecy of Holy Writ, as applied to France rushing into another war with us; and I believe the martial, as well as the commercial and political optimates of that fine country feel this is the case.

The happiness of the universal world may be involved in the sincerity of our present amicable relations;—the glory of God in their long and lasting duration. We are at once too mighty and too deeply responsible to live at variance; too highly civilized, and too valuable as friends, not to seek peace and ensue it.

“Never come such division 'tween our souls!
Let it not!”

As we returned into the lower town, I called at the office of the “Boulogne Gazette,” to ask

why half a sheet only of that journal had been published that day. It appeared that the other half had been impounded by the censor of the press, on behalf of the government ; because the editor had given a report of certain trials for defamation, which at that date were proceeding in the capital. The editor, an Englishman, seemed to be very irate at the occurrence, and denounced the prohibitory *ordonnances* of 1835, in as good set terms as civic, but not civil, indignation could well supply. Fine and imprisonment are held up, *in terrorem*, to whatever journalist shall presume to print either narrative or comment which shall be deemed a violation of the 'interdict ; "and this," said the man of columns and choler, "is the liberty of the press, for encroachment on which Charles X. was sent to the right about."

The fact is, the French and Anglo-Gallo newspaper editors required, like Jaques, a charter large as the wind, with liberty to blow on whom they pleased ; and then, when their "cloke of maliciousness" was plucked from time to time from the wearers, they kicked at the interruption,

and denounced it as an infringement of rights, and an outrage on freedom. I did not edify the gazetteer with this view of the system too commonly adopted by his fraternity; but I could not help thinking that in France, as indeed in England, with respect to the censors, "*Ce ne sont que les censurables qui les trouvent de trop.*"

At length we reached l'Hôtel d'Angleterre and supper. Nothing now remained but to give timely heed to packages and passport, and to take home with us the next day as many pleasing recollections of twenty-one days in France as good plans, good health, and goodhumour had enabled us, under a kindly sun, to accumulate among a people who had always treated us well, and in whose land we had seen much more to commend than to condemn,—much less to annoy than to gratify. Every change I had noticed, comparing the observations of 1816, 1820, 1822, and 1825, was for the better. With all their faults, such as they were, I like the natives still; and I envy not the man who could live and learn among them, even during the brief period of

three weeks, and then ask "Who will shew us any good?"

Let the annexed translation of a letter addressed to me by one of the members of departments, (we should call them county representatives,) in reply to my unreserved comments on the state of party feeling at the present time, avail, in some degree, to disabuse some of my readers in respect of the common notion that, "the French people are longing to quarrel with us!" Prince de Joinville's pamphlet blew this coal; ("which God's dew quench!") but *that* will not kindle the flame of war. The talented writer adds in a postscript—"I have penned this letter in the very Chamber, during a debate to which I have been listening with one ear only; so, pray forgive my having expressed myself in such an unconnected style, and without any painstaking either in phrase or punctuation."

(Translation.)

"REVEREND SIR,

"As you tell me you have been recording your own individual feelings with regard to the disposition cherished in France at this moment in

reference to your country, I exhort you to declare in language as forcible as you can employ,—yes, to declare it with all the energy in which a man speaks who is conscious that he is stating an indisputable truth, that the idea of any war being waged between these two great nations enters not, for a moment, into the conceptions of any intelligent mind, still less, any generous heart in this country. Certainly, we anticipate from the future a series of contentions; but of what description?—the peaceful contentions of two parties emulating each other in designs for encouraging industry and promoting the interests of commerce;—such rivalry as tends to enlarge the sphere of civilization, and to impart in the remotest directions those refinements of humanity which your countrymen, as well as ourselves, have uniformly striven to introduce into every territory of the globe. You have felt yourselves twitted, as it were, by the course we adopted in respect of the Spanish marriages; and the irritating circumstances attaching to that affair derived considerable force from Lord Palmerston having, in a certain degree, compromised his countrymen's

national pride and chafed their spirit. Now, we can fully enter into that ; aware, at the same time, that every uneasy feeling will, beyond doubt, subside,—and that any transient annoyance of this character will be appeased and forgotten in the lapse of time, that most powerful rectifier of all affairs in this world. Moreover, it is our firm belief that men of sound opinions and correct thinkers in England have begun, or, at any rate, *will* soon begin, to perceive that, should the alternative arise of one of our princes, or of a Coburg, being brought to the foot of the throne of Spain, our Government could not hesitate as to the course indicated by such a contingency. We have but played our hand in the game ; Lord Palmerston has lost ; but he may take some little comfort to himself in seeing that our success has already involved us in grave embarrassments ; forasmuch as, while it has produced a degree of coolness between English and French politicians, it has thrust us, altogether contrarily to our inclination, into the councils of Austria. Any such league or sympathy of feeling in that quarter is abhorrent to our principles ; it is pre-

posterous. That we, the men of the Revolutions of 1789 and 1830, should be thus allied, is, in fact, to unsay, to undo all the past. Out of this arose the proceedings adopted here in the case of Switzerland ; a course of conduct against which, only yesterday, Conservative as I am, and intent on the progress of all improvement in the State, I hesitated not to protest with a direct negative.*

“Reverting then, Reverend Sir, (*Monsieur le Reverend*,) to the main subject of our correspondence, we feel that so far from contending in strife of arms with England, the course which best becomes *us*—which becomes humanity—which becomes the world, is a trial of each other’s relative powers in making every effort and affording all possible encouragement on behalf of nations who are *now* actually eudeavouring, or *shall* be found eventually striving, to exchange the trammels of an enslaving form of executive power for those moderate, reasonable, and all-important reforms held out to them in the prospect of a representative government.

* “Par une boule noire”—literally, a *black ball*. Such votes being taken by ballot in the Chamber.

“ It is impossible, Reverend Sir, to convey to you any idea of the astonishment we, one and all, felt at the reading of the Duke of Wellington’s letter on the necessity of England’s fortifying her territory against the possibility of an attack on the part of France. It came upon us like *Thoughts from another world!* and we still continue to think that this declaration of the desirableness of an augmentation of the British forces, emanated from a motive very, very remote from the ostensible one with which public attention has been awakened by this extraordinary stratagem* of the Noble Duke. Rest assured, Reverend Sir, that though frequently galled by the concessions wrung from us by alliance with England, and notwithstanding our strong disinclination to make such sacrifices, on the same terms, beyond the present period, all the really liberal statesmen in this country sincerely regret the existence of the prevailing differences, and as cordially desire the renewal of a thoroughly amicable understanding. The union of our two nations for the object of defending and encouraging Liberty throughout

* “ *Etrange furtum.*”

the world,—a contest between France and England in their generous rivalry as to which shall prove most successful in bettering the condition of hapless multitudes,—the one nation acting, probably, under the impulses of deep reasoning rather than of generosity; and the other, contrariwise, impelled the rather by the finer feelings of a noble nature than by considerate reflection,—this, I verily believe, constitutes all the spirit of antagonism which right-minded men in France acknowledge to exist among my countrymen in apposition with yours. I submit, at least, with all possible deference, that these sentiments of mine are shared to the extent here mentioned.”

* * * *

The writer then enters upon the topic of Education and National Schools in the two countries, which, with other matter irrelevant to the theme of international good-will I deem it unnecessary to quote. The perusal, however, of the foregoing pages from the pen of no ordinary member of the French legislature, cannot but interest my readers; and it is not without a consciousness that the insertion of such a document,—fresh from

the heart of the man and from the atmosphere of the great council of his nation,—has imparted value to this very unpretending volume, that I thus lay it before the Public eye. *Felix faustumque sit!* May it prognosticate Peace upon earth, and Good-will towards men.

We steamed over to Folkstone on Wednesday the 14th July, on what might be described as a sea of looking-glass in perfect stillness. Our passage across that silvery flood was one of the most delectable enjoyments of all my marine experience ; and the bright face of smiling nature was reflected in one which by the strangest possible contingency I happened to meet again on the deck, after an absence of several years. My son and self rejoiced alike in the mutual greetings of the two brief hours of our transit, thus gladdened and beguiled by many an interesting reminiscence of by-gone times. The Baronet's sister, the Senator's wife (Mrs. B.) was herself unchanged, unchangeable,—and, in these moments seemed to appear upon the scene to

remind us that, where'er we roam, whatever realms to see, there is not such a being as the genuine English lady among all the nations of the globe. Perhaps I owe this friendly demonstration, *in fine*, as a sort of *amende honorable* for the *persifflage* with which I ventured, in the opening chapter of these volumes, to pourtray the hapless maidens and matrons that lay in mute supineness, above and below, fore and aft, under the influence of a rolling sea and concomitant dyspepsia: and I trust, that should any of that sisterhood happen to glance at the title-page of these volumes with sufficient interest in the subject-matter to read *on-and-on*, they will not find further cause of quarrel with the chronicler of that day; or question his ready disposition to honour the ascendancy of British beauty and attractiveness with as hearty allegiance as he cherishes for the Mitre and the Crown.

With this good confession of loyalty and most chivalrous devotedness to "gentle readers," I shall now lay down both PEN and PENCIL: and if that formidable personage, so facetiously termed "The generous Public," will but look through

my notes and sketches with the same amount of good-humour which prompted me to make them ; and feel as determined to be pleased with the unpretending *Journal* as I did with respect to the *Journey*, it will never be matter of regret that, as a PARSON, I rambled so far from home, or, as an Author, I wrote as I have written, on returning to my glebe-house and gardens in the Deanery of Sittingbourne and Diocese of Canterbury.



APPENDIX.

THE following extracts from reports presented to Parliament on the 1st January, 1847, at the expiration of the eighth year of the existence of Parkhurst prison, Isle of Wight, will be read with some interest, after the mention of Mettray, in Touraine. They were severally drawn up by the governor, the chaplains, and the visiting surgeon.

At the commencement of 1846, there were in the establishment 648 boys. During that year, 102 came from Milbank prison, 72 of whom had been sentenced to seven years' transportation, 27 for ten, 2 for fourteen, 1 for fifteen. 7 of these were aged from twelve to fourteen; 51 from fourteen to sixteen; 44 from sixteen to eighteen.

Out of the total of 648, there were discharged, in the year 1846 :—

- 7 who were sent to Milbank.
- 11 to their friends with a free pardon.
- 11 { pardoned and placed in employment in England ;
but not with their relatives.
- 25 { were sent to the Philanthropic Society's Asylum, St.
George's Fields.
- 70 { were permitted, on account of good conduct, to go
out as free emigrants to Port Philip.
- 6 died.

130

The boys at Parkhurst are trained to agriculture, gardening, carpenters' and bricklayers' trades, shoemaking, tailoring, brickmaking, blacksmith's work, painting, baking, cooking, and, it would appear, washing.* They take considerable interest in these several occupations ; and many acquire great proficiency. On three days of the week, the boys are occupied for seven and a half hours at their trades. On the alternate days, they are engaged five and a half hours in school, and two at agricultural labour. On Sunday, they are in school during two and a half hours ; in chapel three and a half hours.

* The report says, "the washing of the prison linen was computed at 247*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*"

They were almost all, at the period of these reports, in robust health. The moral condition of the great majority was undergoing continual improvement. The prison offences punished in 1846 amounted to only three-fifths of those recorded in 1845.

The number of prisoners in 1845, was 622.

„ in 1846, „ 647.

The reported cases of theft in 1846, were 62.

„ in 1846, „ 29.

„ falsehood 1846, „ 72.

„ in 1846, „ 23.

The large majority of offences is among boys of their first year of detention. Their derelictions are considerably fewer in their second year, and very rare in their third.

The lads consider their liberty regained when they are removed, on account of steady conduct, to the colonies. The hope of being thus selected has a very salutary influence; and as the period for emigration approaches, they are doubly cautious and careful in their behaviour. “Still,” says Governor Hall, “it appears to me, that it would be of advantage to introduce some distinguishing mark, or privilege, which might be ac-

quired by a prisoner at an earlier period of his confinement, and which, being known as a recognition, on the part of the prison authorities, of good conduct so far, should operate as an encouragement and stimulus to the boy to persevere in the cause of well-doing, which will eventually procure him a recommendation for liberty. At present, the evening-school class is the only reward for good conduct attainable by a prisoner while here; and it must be obvious that there may be many really deserving boys who have not a sufficient literary taste to appreciate this as fully as it deserves."

The aggregate amount of the computed earnings of the boys in the last year is 2,294*l.* 7*s.*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Tailors	293	0	0	Three painters	29	2	1
Shoemakers ...	263	14	0	Four black-	41	18	1
Sawyers and } Carpenters }	255	15	7	smiths..... }			
Brickmakers ...	120	15	0	Seven boys } helping the }	94	8	6
Bricklayers ...	119	8	4	cooks..... }			
Farm labour ...	527	16	7	Washing va-	247	18	5
Gardeners	101	5	1	lued at ... }			
Three boys } under the }	29	13	10	Oakum pick-	29	4	0
baker in }				ing..... }			
9 months. }				Knitting	16	17	9

Three boys, employed on field labour, ran off on the 8th September, but were very speedily apprehended.

Six died in 1846. They had been inmates of Parkhurst for upwards of two and three years.

No injury to bodily or mental health has resulted from separate confinement.

One tried to hang himself in a paroxysm of ill temper and sullenness.

One feigned insanity, but confessed the trick when placed under treatment for madness.

Twenty-nine were, for a very short period, placed in the penal class.

The total expenditure of the prison during 1846 was 14,801*l.* 14*s.* The receipts amounted to 862*l.* 7*s.* 3½*d.*; reducing the actual expenses to 13,939*l.* 6*s.* 8½*d.*, or 21*l.* 10*s.* 10½*d.* for each prisoner.

The sum of 1,098*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, however, was paid for alterations and repairs in the prison buildings, not likely to occur in future years. If this be deducted from the amount of expenditure, the remaining sum, 12,841*l.* 0*s.* 7½*d.*, divided by

647, the daily average of prisoners, will give 19*l.* 15*s.* 4*½d.*, as the total cost of each boy.*

The sum of 7*l.* 15*s.* has been expended on diet (fivepence and one-tenth a-day), and 1*l.* 12*s.* 3*½d.* on clothing and bedding for each prisoner.

The senior chaplain, speaking of the senior wards, states that he has had under his special instruction, in the year 1846, 533 convicts. In the course of that year there were admitted to these wards 86 prisoners. The following entries indicate their capacity and attainments, as ascertained by examination at their reception.

Read well	1	Write well	0
„ tolerably.....	33	„ tolerably	20
„ imperfectly.....	18	„ imperfectly	29
„ scarcely at all ...	31	„ scarcely at all ...	28
„ not at all	3	„ not at all	9

* Mons. Augustin Cochin's Report of Mettray, in 1846, states, that the expense of each youth in that penal colony, amounted to 1 franc, 32 centimes, 9-10ths daily. This would be about 19*l.* 15*s.* 4*½d.*, the very sum named above for the Parkhurst establishment; reckoning at par. *i. e.* 24 francs to one pound.

Cipher to multiplication	18	A little	29
„ addition	33	Scarcely any, or none...	39
Not, or scarcely at all...	35		
<i>Repetition of Catechism.</i>		<i>Knowledge of the meaning of words.</i>	
Complete.....	15	Considerable	4
Most parts	18	Some	18
Some	9	A little.....	29
A small portion	44	Scarcely any, or none...	35
All can repeat the Lord's Prayer.			
<i>Knowledge of Scripture.</i>		<i>General Information.</i>	
Considerable	4	Some	2
Some	14	A little.....	11
		Scarcely any, or none...	73

The separate employment of the prisoners of the general wards in cells, one day in each week, had succeeded quite as well as the means of superintendence had allowed the chaplain to expect. The peculiar system of partial separation adopted in the probationary ward had also worked exceedingly well. Insubordination has been less than was anticipated, and serious crime comparatively unfrequent.

The junior chaplain speaks with due caution of the religious and moral condition of the youths under his inspection ; knowing that while they are at Parkhurst they are shielded from many temptations, and that consequently they cannot

give those undoubted and decided proofs of good character which might be displayed under other circumstances. The progress of true religion and sound morality is steady, though not rapid.

The offences committed arose in the great majority of instances from the thoughtlessness of boyhood rather than from wilful intention to disobey. There were very few boys of whom it could be said no improvement had taken place.

Their attention and diligence, and consequent improvement in the school, surpassed all that the junior chaplain had ever remarked in former experience.

The medical officer reported that an unusually hot and dry summer, and an early and very severe winter, had caused diarrhoea to considerable extent, and a corresponding degree of bronchial and catarrhal affection (colds and coughs); but the general health had been good. Sore throats and sore eyes were often discernible, arising from the exposure to cold or currents of air during perspiration, while the youths were occupied in their several trades. Many also suffered from

chilblains, being scrofulous subjects; but the inmates of Parkhurst were far healthier than those lads resident in its vicinity. The prolonged period of discipline in no single instance had tended to produce depression of spirits; and the indisposition occurring from time to time was of a trivial nature.

II.

CAEN STONE.

AT a meeting in January, 1848, of the Institute of Architects, an interesting paper was read by Professor Donaldson, on "Caen and its Quarries and Buildings." The Dean of Westminster (Dr. Buckland, the glory of geologists) observed at the conclusion of the lecture, that with regard to the Caen stone in Westminster Abbey, some of it had decayed to the extent of *three or four inches in depth*. (This was laid by the masons in the reign of Henry III., in

the middle of the thirteenth century.) The dean observed that various qualities were perceptible in the several parts of the sacred edifice, an indication that the quarries in Caen were not to be implicitly relied on as a source of permanently durable material. It would be difficult now to get stone from the beds out of which the early buildings in Caen were erected. He calculated that the fine grained Norman stone (Caen) now used, might last 300 years. That in the abbey had endured through double that period, with exception of the portions above mentioned.

Mr. Godwin remarked that the comparatively modern dwelling-houses in Caen, many of which were built of Caen stone, exhibited a surface entirely honey-combed; while the ancient churches in that town, where a better quality of stone had evidently been used, exhibited soundness throughout, and outlines as sharp as when first erected.

There is hardly a more grievous spectacle of decay, and of the error of judgment on the part of architects, in whose wont of caution it originated, than the flaking decomposition, or

desquamation of the stone used in the earlier colleges at Oxford. The common notion prevailed, in my time, that the blocks had been sawn "*the wrong way of the grain*" at the quarry. Such masses of material as had been cut in a transverse (directly opposite) section, had stood the test of centuries, without any remarkable deterioration.

III.

BLIND SCHOOL.

On the last occasion of my visiting the Queen Square School just mentioned, I saw a few girls who were staying there during the vacation. Two of these were Chinese, recommended, as I understood, by the Rev. Mr. Gutzlaff, one of the most zealous missionaries abroad. One poor girl (they were sisters), had lost vision by a cloud of lime-dust, which was blown into her eyes by a sudden gust of wind on premises where a house was in progress of building. The other had been blinded by her step-mother, in China, by

the introduction of some malignant juices of herbs. The monster had just before murdered her son, by scalding him in boiling water.

It was a highly interesting sight, to behold one blind child getting another of her own age ready to go out walking. Indeed, they were on their way to some religious meeting in London. The bonnet, and cap, and ribbons, the tippet, neck-handkerchief, brooch, gloves, and cloak, were severally taken from the wardrobe by the blind girl, and placed accurately, and even tastefully, on her companion, who, in turn, helped to get her friend ready.

I asked several whether they longed for the gift of vision. They were for the most part indifferent on the subject. One wished she could see, that she might understand what was meant by the heavenly bodies—sky, sun, moon, planets, &c. Another, that her extent of reading might be wider. Another, that she might be able to read letters from relations. But none spoke of desire to behold and see what the features of their relations were. Such longings might possibly be felt by individuals moving in a

higher sphere of society ; but the general sense of contentment prevailing among these interesting young creatures ought to be regarded as indicative of the signal mercies of God.

THE END.

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